

MAR 7 1913

"A Little Child Shall Lead Them"

CHILD-WELFARE MAGAZINE

Vol. VII

MARCH, 1913

No. 7

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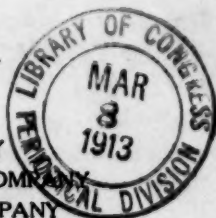
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PUBLISHED MONTHLY
FOR THE CHILD-WELFARE COMPANY
BY J. B. LIPPINCOTT COMPANY
227 South Sixth Street, Philadelphia



\$1.00 A YEAR

10 CENTS A NUMBER

Entered as Second Class Matter, November 29, 1909, at the Post Office at Philadelphia, Pa.,
under Act of March 3, 1879

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Seventeenth Child-Welfare Conference National Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations
Boston, Mass., May 15-20, 1913

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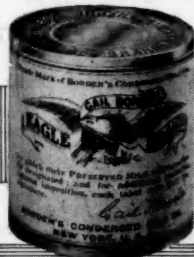
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Vol. VII

MARCH, 1913

No. 7

The President's Desk

PROPOSED INVESTIGATION OF EDUCATION OF GIRLS

MANY letters come to the magazine from mothers expressing their lack of knowledge of child nurture and wishing that their education might have prepared them to meet more intelligently the duties of motherhood.

The following is one of many correspondents expressing about the same feeling:

"I have three babies, the oldest not quite three. I would like, so far as it is possible for me to do so, to have the benefit of the best ideas of the best educators and thinkers of the day, to help me in the training of my children. I have a university education, and was a teacher in a high school, but I feel that I am poorly equipped for the task of guiding the development of my children as I would like to do it. I have an idea that our modern school system falls far short—that many very bright children are developed into very mediocre adults, and are never able to give to the world the benefit of abilities which they seemed in early life to possess. My problem is to find out how to supplement most effectively at home the training which the schools are able to give.

"Publications are many, but I am at a loss to know where to find the material which would be most helpful to me in studying the problem of the training of my children."

Dr. M. V. O'Shea, Chairman of Education Department, National Congress of Mothers, has outlined a plan for investigating the efficiency of the present education of girls, which is published herewith.

The comments and suggestions of our readers are invited: First, as to the value of such an investigation; second, as to the methods of conducting it; third, as to plans for improving the system now in practice.

Especially can mothers with college education help in expressing their views concerning this important subject. Letters will receive the consideration of Executive Board of the Congress.

A STATEMENT Regarding Points which might be covered in a Study of the Education of Girls to be undertaken by the Congress of Mothers and the Parent-Teacher Associations. M. V. O'SHEA.

IN my opinion, this investigation should attempt to find out in as accurate and complete a way as possible whether our present methods of educating girls in the high school and in the college are accomplishing the desired results in making women more effective in the lives they must live, and more content in the work they must do. In order to get at this problem, it would be necessary to investigate accurately the present practice in the education of girls in public and private secondary schools, and in segregated and coeducational colleges and universities. Undoubtedly the practice varies somewhat in different sections of the country, and this matter should be accurately investigated. Then an attempt should be made to determine the results of the various programmes of study in methods of training with a view to finding out to what extent the training which girls receive in the schools helps them to meet the situations of everyday life. This problem could be studied in part by getting testimonies from women who have been students in secondary schools and also in colleges and in universities. It could be studied in part by getting the testimonies of parents, though these testimonies are sometimes not of particular importance. The problem could be investigated more accurately by having competent people determine to what extent particular subjects of study are utilized in the life of the typical woman. Interesting evidence relating to this matter could be gained by the study of the home life, the social life, and the public life of women trained in high schools, and in segregated and coeducational colleges and universities, as compared with women who have had no training of this sort. Take any typical community. Who are the women who appear most fully to attain the ideals of a woman's life?

The problem is an extremely difficult one, because it is very complex. The study of it would not be of very much service unless it could be done by well-trained and experienced investigators of psychological and sociological phenomena. Perhaps the best way to make the start would be to study one community very carefully, choosing, as far as possible, a typical community, say one in the East, another in the Middle West, another in the South.

A particular phase of this problem would concern the relation of present methods of education in the secondary school and in the college and in the university to the physical development and the health of girls. This matter could be investigated with greater ease than the problems mentioned above, although it would require careful measurements and records. But there are high schools, colleges, and universities that have medical inspection, and they ought to be able to furnish accurate data bearing upon this matter. It would be more difficult to study the effect of our present methods upon the grace and comeliness of girls, but the opinions of careful observers with regard to this matter might be of im-

portance. The effect of modern education upon the æsthetic interests and the abilities of girls in regard to dress, the beautifying of the home, and so on, might be investigated.

I am presenting here the outline of a big undertaking, of course, if it should be carried out in any thoroughgoing way. But if concrete and reliable data relating to these matters could be gained by the Congress of Mothers and presented to parents and teachers, the result ought to be of extraordinary importance. This might be the most effective way to prepare for parenthood,—by making the education of the new generation rational and effective, intellectually, physically, morally, and æsthetically.

CHILD-WELFARE DAY, FEBRUARY 17

CHILD-WELFARE DAY was observed in many states this year. In Washington, D. C., a very large luncheon was given at the Raleigh Hotel by Mrs. Arthur A. Birney and the members of the District Congress. In Philadelphia, the National President gave a luncheon with Mrs. George K. Johnson, State President, as guest of honor. In Pittsburgh, a conference of the Parents' Associations of Western Pennsylvania was held to celebrate the day.

Governors of several states gave official recognition to the day, while it was noted by sermons in many churches on the previous Sabbath.

Three Child-Welfare Commissions have been appointed by Governors—one in Oregon, one in Arizona, and one in Alabama. Many others have signified their intention to do this.

TO PARENTS' ASSOCIATIONS AND MOTHERS' CIRCLES AND MOTHERS

PLEASE note that CHILD-WELFARE MAGAZINE begins with this issue a program for your meeting. Next month there will be another. Will you follow the directions

given, and write the editors whether the program meets your needs? Any association desiring different programs will be helped by writing to the Magazine.

ARE YOU GOING TO BOSTON MAY 15-20?

THE Seventeenth Child-Welfare Conference of the National Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations will be one of the greatest conventions ever held by the Congress. Massachusetts is planning many interesting things for delegates in addition to the meetings. The steady, rapid growth of the Congress in Massachusetts is an evidence of the fine leadership of the State officers.

It will be many years before the Congress will again meet in Boston, and every one should plan to attend who can possibly do so. The Copley-Plaza will be the headquarters. Summer tourist rates will be in effect, and a hearty welcome awaits every one who comes.

Conference Department of Superintendence N. E. A.—Philadelphia

The Officers and Managers of the National Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations met in Philadelphia, February 27th to March 1st, with the Bellevue-Stratford as headquarters.

The Department of Superintendence of the National Education Association met in Philadelphia, February 26th until March 1st, with the Bellevue-Stratford as headquarters. This brought to Philadelphia about three thousand leading educators of the United States. The latter assigned the Clover Room at the Bellevue-Stratford to the Congress, Saturday, March 1st, nine to one o'clock, and this conference was included in the program of the Department of Superintendence.

Representatives of the National Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations received the women delegates attending the Department of Superintendence, February 26th, 27th and 28th, in Apartment 1014, the Bellevue-Stratford. The officers of the Congress gave a luncheon at one o'clock, March 1st at the Bellevue-Stratford.

Among the guests who accepted invitations to the luncheon were: Hon. P. P. Claxton, United States Commissioner of Education; Mrs. Ella Flagg Young, Superintendent of Schools, Chicago, Ill.; Mr. E. A. Fairchild, President of the National Education Association, Durham, N. H.; Hon. N. C. Schaeffer, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Harrisburg, Pa.; Miss Lucy Wheelock, Training School for Kindergartners, Boston, Mass.; Mr. W. E. Pearson, Superintendent of Kansas City Schools; Mr. F. A. Dyer, President of Department of Superintendence, Boston, Mass.; Mr. W.

M. Davidson, Superintendent of Schools, Washington, D. C.; Mrs. Rudolph Blankenburg, Vice-President of General Federation of Women's Clubs, Philadelphia.

Miss Helen Grinnell Mears, of Boston, gave vocal selections.

The program:

Child Welfare in Home, Church, School and State, Officers and Managers of the National Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations—Conference, Saturday, March 1st, 1913, 9 A.M. to 1 P.M. Clover Room, Bellevue-Stratford.

Round Table 9 to 10, How Parents' Associations in Church and School Help the Home and Children. Mrs. David O. Mears, Vice-President National Congress of Mothers, presiding.

Round Table 10 to 11, How Parent-Teacher Associations Help the Teacher, the School, and the Community. Mrs. J. P. Mumford, presiding.

Round Table 11 to 12, Responsibility of the School and Home to the Wayward Child. Mrs. E. R. Weeks, presiding.

Round Table 12 to 1, Parents' Educational Bureau—Reaching Parents with Instruction in Child Nurture through Mothers' Circles and Parents' Associations. Mothers' Congress Methods for Doubling Educational Opportunities of the School System.

Coöperation of National Congress of Mothers, National Education Association, International Kindergarten Union, Religious Education Association, National Kindergarten Association, U. S. Department of Education, U. S. Department of Good Roads.

Educate the Whole Child

WILLIAM A. McKEEVER

Professor of Philosophy, Kansas State Agricultural College

It is now becoming more and more recognized that the public school alone cannot educate the child, no matter how thorough the instruction there may be. It is being charged that the public schools are the "colossal failure of the age." This statement is of course both extravagant and foolish, although the curriculum is somewhat out of harmony with the times and is apparently about to undergo a marked revision. By use of the same logic we could prove that the home is a worse failure since, as such, it has done its part in building up and rightly shaping the character of the child far less adequately than has the school. As a matter of fact, both of these great child-fostering institutions are becoming as never before, conscious of their true relations to the upbringing of a new order of human society.

THE "NEW" BOY AND GIRL

The human child, as now best understood, may be regarded as a 20th-century discovery. That is, we have found that so-called ordinary children possess all the inherent qualities necessary for developing them into moral and self-reliant men and women, provided the known and well-tried methods of care-taking and training be applied to them. Our fault is now not so much a lack of knowledge of what to do as it is lack of means for putting our proved theory into practice. It is probably not an exaggeration to

say that we could develop 95 per cent. of our ordinary children into successful and happy men and women if it were possible to give them such an ideal course of training as is now in practice in the best industrial schools of the country.

But how can ordinary busy parents find time and means to supply their children with these advantages for character development and have all this to add to and supplement the true parental love—a thing which the industrial school cannot furnish? In considering this matter and attempting a solution, let us take up one at a time the fundamental steps in the process.

THE PLAY ACTIVITIES

The first child-welfare problem which presses itself upon the attention of the intelligent parent is that relating to the play activities. We find the true rule of guidance here only when we think of play as necessary to instruction and discipline and not merely as a means of entertainment. Therefore, time and money appropriated to the play activities of the child may be regarded as ranking in importance with expenditures for book instruction and industrial training. Both are investments in character-forming materials.

Moreover, we are now becoming fully aware that to leave the play training of the young to mere chance occasion is a careless and hazardous thing to do—that such

neglect may lead to untold injury to the character of the children concerned and to society as well. The expense of furnishing all the necessary play things is very small. A soap box half full of sand or sawdust, a spool pulley attached to the upper door-case with a cord, and a quart pail for "drawing water"; a 15-cent cotton clothes-line cut and attached to the four corners of the seat of a bay chair, thus forming a doorway swing; a dry-goods box wherein the four-year-old girl may arrange her kitchen and dining-room toys; an attic or side room rigged up with home-made whirligigs, spool pulleys, rope swings, see-saws—these are some of the simple indoor devices that any interested father may construct for his own children and thus help build their characters aright.

As to outdoor playthings, they are easily secured. Given the right desire on the part of the parent and the apparatus will be forthcoming. A small ladder, a swing, a sand box, a wagon, a pile of cheap boards and bricks for constructive play, a small enclosure for the little girl's "home-making" play—such as these may be provided. In their use the thought will always be that of keeping the children in sight, of teaching them to play together in team work, of keeping them out of vile company, of giving some of the hand-and-hand training that leads toward the serious affairs of adults.

THE INDUSTRIAL TRAINING

The times are drawing an ever tighter line around those persons who have not been trained during their youth in some kind of work

and industry. Even the man or woman who would successfully occupy a position remote from any personal contact with manual labor—such as minister, lawyer, office man, refined mistress of a well-appointed home—even these can safely approach their appointed places through the harmonizing and seasoning experiences of plain work. No matter how well-to-do the parent may be; no matter how large an inheritance he may have already set apart for his children; no matter how thoroughly he may have had them instructed in the class-rooms of the schools and the colleges; if he denies his children the actual participation and practice in every form of manual labor and industry, he is thereby robbing them of an important part of their birthright.

The home - directed industrial training of the child should include a fixed schedule of requirements by way of light tasks and errands, suited to the age and the strength of the learner. If the home situation prevents all else by way of childhood industry there is always a large amount of housework, and boys as well as girls should be taught to do much of this. But where such a thing is at all practicable, the growing child should be slowly inducted into the practice of one or more of the great human industries: 1. Production, as may be approached through garden and field work; 2. Manufacturing, as may be approached through home carpentering; 3. Distribution, as may be approached through carrying papers, delivering milk, and the like; 4. Household management,

such as any common home offers facilities for learning.

SOCIAL TRAINING

If a man is to fit well and happily into human society he must be trained for such purpose during his growing years. So we take the same serious view of the social instruction of children as we do of their instruction in any of the so-called school branches. We would buy books and pay teachers for the school work, and we would also invest our money just as carefully in behalf of social culture.

Sociability is a large element of the play experience. So we supervise the play activities, attempting to see that each child acts fairly and justly toward his mates and that evil speech and conduct are not a part of the practice. If there be a public playground we send the boys and girls, not merely to get them out of the way and to have them entertained, but with the thought also of having them instructed in the art of dealing fairly and helpfully with others.

And then, for the same purpose of training in sociability and good fellowship—and knowing that the side of mere enjoyment will take care of itself in such arrangements—we provide play parties and inexpensive sociables and outings for our children. Our purpose in all this implies strict constant attention to such matters as cleanness of speech, purity of thought and circumspectness of action. Thus we slowly build up the social aspects of our children's characters and prepare them for helpful and harmonious association with others.

RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION

Even if we are not associated with a religious body ourselves—and we should be—we parents recognize the right and need of our growing children for participation in at least some mild forms of religious practice. We understand that, especially during the adolescent period, there will be a strong instinctive religious awakening in the consciousness of our children and that this natural and new craving for peace within must be met with some kind of training and guidance. And so we send our children to the religious body which most nearly answers to our ideal—perhaps the Sunday-school—with the same serious motive as heretofore stated, to furnish the means of rounding out their full latent characters and to supply them with the largest and best possible outlook on life and its purposes.

The pre-adolescent child is not naturally religious, but he may and should be taught the forms and practices which will make his true religious experience free and easy of expression when it comes to him out of his adolescent, organic development. The scriptural selections, the songs, the prayers, and such other forms and ceremonies as the home and the Sunday-school, may bring into the child's life—these we recognize as helpful and instructive in the positive sense as well as negatively, furnishing safeguards against may forms of juvenile evil.

SOCIAL SERVICE

Finally, we recognize the fact that our children will arrive at an age when there will be in each of them a strong secret longing to be-

come a self-reliant and helpful member of society. In leading our boy or girl through this greatest of all of the "bringing out" experiences—judged from the standpoint of mere human value—we recognize the vast amount of care and patience and sympathy it all involves.

We now understand that the first step necessary to make the young person socially efficient is that of making him vocationally efficient. So, after having trained him (or her) in the beginnings of every possible form of human endeavor, we consult his inner nature for the last answer as to the choice of a life work. If no inner choice has yet been arrived at, we know by this sign that the young life is not ripe for a definite vocational decision and we go on with our general training, biding the time when the

voice shall speak from within. After a wise and happy choice of a vocation has been made for our son (or daughter) we know that the joy of doing his own appointed work will naturally lead him into channels of social service. He will be so glad that he is alive and has a fitting place to work in the world that he will naturally desire to help others and will await eagerly the means and opportunities for doing so.

And so we have here an outline for the New Salvation, a salvation that brings out and uses to the fullest possible extent every desirable latent ability in the common child, and finally formulates all into a great organized force—a full grown man or woman living and working triumphantly for God and humanity.

Child Welfare in Other Lands

France has passed a law which requires that the paternity of an illegitimate child must be traced and the father compelled to aid in its support. This places the responsibility equally on man and woman and is a step far in advance in child protection.

GUATEMALA

The Department of State, Washington, D. C., advises the Secretary of National Congress of Mothers that the Department has received a despatch from the American

Minister in which he reports that the Guatemalan Minister for Foreign Affairs accepts the invitation and states that the Government of Guatemala will name its delegates to the Congress in due time.

JAPAN

The Japanese Kindergarten Union has appointed Mrs. R. A. Thomson, of Kobe, as its representative at the Third International Congress in Child Welfare, to be held in Washington, April, 1914.

Mothers' Activity in Legislation

Massachusetts mothers are working for the mothers' pension. Mrs. Robert C. Park has just reported to the Governor the results of the investigation made by the committee appointed a year ago.

Pennsylvania mothers have introduced a bill into the legislature providing for a state juvenile probation commission, to supervise probation work in the state. The bill provides for county probation associa-

tions and defines the service to be given by probation officers.

This measure is earnestly advocated by those who have been most closely associated with the juvenile court work as the next step toward a uniform efficient standard of service.

Several noted lawyers and judges of Pennsylvania have given their help in drafting the measure now before the legislature.

The Convalescent Child

FAYE N. MERRIMAN

THE period of convalescence following a severe sickness is a trying time to the entire household, especially if the complaint has been any of the many fevers. In this case there is an almost uncontrollable appetite on the part of the patient which is difficult to contend with.

The crisis of the illness past, the little one grows fretful and impatient, either unwilling to make any self-effort toward recovery or chafing at the delay in leaving the bed. As this period is a most important one to the child's future health, every precaution should be made to see that the child passes the days of convalescence tranquilly, gaining gradually the strength to take up the old routine of living.

In case the child has been pampered and spoiled during the earlier and more critical period of the illness, discipline should be reestablished promptly. Regular hours for sleeping and eating must be adhered to, and all remedies prescribed by the physician given with clock-work precision or there is danger of a relapse.

The sight of medical paraphernalia, bottles, hot-water bags, medicine glasses and the odors attached to the same are often depressing to the recovering invalid. Therefore, all articles of this description should be placed beneath a curtain or outside of the room altogether.

At this period it is a good idea to either remove a child to another room or to freshen up the one in which the tedious illness has been passed by substituting fresh curtains

for the old, another bedspread for the one accustomed to and brightening up the atmosphere of the apartment in various ways. Simple curtains of cheesecloth stenciled in some plain pattern with Mother Goose pictures, or if the child is older, flower designs will help to make the room attractive. If an extra bedspread of pleasing pattern is not available take a large sheet and stencil figures about the edges. In place of the white pillows square ones with dainty designs may be substituted for daytime use.

To the wise person, stenciling is no longer the tedious process it was once, with its danger of smearing or spilling liquid coloring matter all about. Common school crayons which may be purchased for ten cents a box (twenty-five colors) make an excellent substitute for paints and dyes. In case of thin materials, such as cheesecloth, even the cutting of stencils may be avoided. Sketch the design upon a square of white cardboard and placing the cheesecloth over the card, trace it upon the cloth itself, using pins to indicate the edge of the cardboard, and moving the card along as you would a stencil. Press with a not too hot iron and soak in salt water before washing. If washed in warm suds, the design will not be injured but the pattern may be boiled out if desired and a fresh one substituted. It takes but a few moments to do all the decorating desired in this way and greater freedom of design is possible than with ordinary stenciling.

If medicines administered are bitter or nauseous it is often difficult to persuade the child to swallow them and often fifteen or twenty minutes are consumed in getting the preparation down, disturbing the regularity which is so necessary. Younger children often scream at the sight of the bottle.

A clever way to get around this is to cover the bottle with crêpe paper or with tissue paper upon which have been pasted flowers or other tiny pictures. Or purchase one of the small bisque dolls with jointed legs held together with elastics, take off the head and fasten to the cork of the bottle with glue. Make several little dresses of straight pieces of gingham, lawn or any desired material, gathered in with a bit of string and put upon the bottles. Let the bottle be kept out of sight except at medicine taking time, then bring her forth, introducing her as Miss Dolly Doctor. After the dose is taken allow the child to change the dress upon the bottle and put it away for another hour or so. If a sweet-toned little alarm clock can be purchased, set this to announce the hour when the medicine should be taken. The object is, of course, to make a child anticipate the medicine hour instead of looking forward to it with dread.

To further accomplish this let lemonade, orange-juice or some similar pleasant tasting beverage be given the child instead of water to wash down the dose, and let a fancy souvenir spoon be used in place of the every-day silverware.

Between meals a convalescent child must have something to hold its attention. Reading is very sel-

dom advisable and should only be allowed if the permission of the doctor is obtained. A song-bird hanging in the room creates a very pleasant diversion, as does a growing plant. A carrot cut in half crosswise and the upper or stem end hung up and filled with water will begin to show green in a few days, and in a week or so will be covered with green leaves which curl upward and around the carrot itself. A dampened sponge filled with flax or grass seed becomes a ball of living green.

A small flat box, about ten or eleven inches high, with all of the boards removed but the top and two sides, makes a good bed table. Cover the box with oil cloth or some pretty fabric, place one side of the box on either side of the child and the top may be used to hold toys, books, or the child's simple meals.

Especial care should be given to the diet of the child during convalescence. Only too often the invalid is allowed to eat anything fancied and at all hours of a day. A neighbor brings in a peach or an apple, the children run in with candy, father brings home all manner of things and usually the child is allowed to swallow them all and everybody wonders "why that child does not improve faster."

Food of all description should be kept out of the sickroom except at stated and regular intervals, which the doctor shall recommend. After a severe fever the patient is always ravenous and the stomach unreasonable in its demands, craving foods that it would be criminal to put into the little one's mouth. Often it is said about some delicate child,

"Mary was all right until she had the fever, but she never seemed to properly recover." Nine times out of ten this may be traced to indiscretions during convalescence.

Whether the child seems languid and undesirous of recovery or over eager it is a good idea to set some little festivity such as a picnic or small journey for a certain safe date, saying, "If you are well enough by that time we will do so-and-so." Or, "If you will stay in bed until a certain day we will have a lovely time."

A certain portion of each day should be given over to repose in a partially darkened room, as it is a mistake to excite the child too much and this interval also affords a period of rest for the mother or one

in charge. The child should not be allowed to tyrannize over the rest of the household with unreasonable demands or complaints, but should be given material as much as possible wherewith to amuse itself quietly. Particular care should be taken to see that there is plenty of fresh air always, as the lack of this is often what makes the child fretful.

At its best the convalescent period is a nerve-racking ordeal with the danger of relapse ever present. An old doctor once said just after the crisis had past in a diphtheria case, when the mother exclaimed thankfully, "The worst is over!" "Not for you, I am sorry to say, madam." And many mothers have found this to be true.

Proclamation of Florida's Governor for Child-Welfare Day

Governor Trammell, of Florida, issued the following proclamation for observance of Child-Welfare Day:

At the request of the National Congress of Mothers, I am pleased to designate February seventeenth, 1913, as Child-Welfare Day throughout the State of Florida.

Every thoughtful citizen realizes that the Nation's future finds its lodgment in the children of to-day.

We give more or less time to planning for the conservation of the material wealth of our State and Nation, and it is well that we do; but, how much more important it is that we study child life, and plan for the welfare of our children. The

State is interested in having a proper influence of the home upon the life of the child. It is interested in seeing that they are encouraged to lead pure and spiritual lives, and it has an important duty to fulfil in supplying the best school advantages and fostering a high standard of civic righteousness.

The work of the National Congress of Mothers is truly a worthy one, and I am sure that the citizens of Florida will be greatly benefited by giving, upon the day above designated, careful thought to the Welfare of the Children of this State.

PARK TRAMMELL,
Governor.

Will any of our subscribers who have kept their numbers of the CHILD-WELFARE MAGAZINE and are willing to part with them send

the following to Mr. W. L. Scott,
14 Metcalf St., Ottawa, Canada.

Vol. I, No. 2; Vol. II, Nos. 1
and 2. Vol. III, No. 1.

Department of Child Hygiene

HELEN C. PUTNAM, A.B., M.D.

CHILDREN'S GARDENS AND LIFE—III

Life is a Trust,
Received from Many
Who have lived before,
To be guarded
And bettered
In One's turn,
And passed along
To Many after.

BEFORE this chapter, read again the first on the loss to character and well-being when children do not know garden craft and nature lore; and the second, on the shortsighted wastefulness of "sex hygiene" agitations, of "aborted ideals."

Within a few years, in visiting many hundred schools in many cities looking for the instruction in hygiene, I have found teachers almost everywhere struggling with the problems of gossip and behavior among children due to thwarted and misinformed interest—a wholly natural interest—in the renewal of life and in the differences between and relations of the sexes.

This has always been known to exist among children. The policy has been to ignore it, cover it, and leave it to ferment, aided by the literature and agencies of the "under world" that is more alive to its opportunities than the "upper world" has been. These children's mental attitude is a reflection of environment here, too, as in other things. Fathers through their political management, mothers by their submission to it provide vicious influences in dangerous measure. Both parents by personal influence create in part children's ideas of life.

Among these many schools were

several teachers helping children out of their darkness in the ideal way—by guiding them straight to the Creator's revelations of Law and Purpose for all living things, plant and animal life in school gardens and country, under the water and in the air. Notice their method that I have called ideal. It was not the blinding baffling flood of words to which instruction is usually confined. There were only enough words to "guide" them "straight" to real things, the Creator's revelations through plant life and through animal life, all disclosing Law and Purpose for man as well. Children understand best when they can also see.

They everywhere responded as children always do to real wisdom, wholesomely. Foolish teaching is at the root of foolishness. When every instructor is a Boris Sidis, every normal child—will enter Harvard at thirteen, if that is the ideal. "Sex hygiene" is never mentioned by these teachers. Sex takes its rightful place along with other phenomena; reproduction, along with digestion, respiration, circulation and other functions. It receives no special notice above the others, but it is not omitted—"the conspiracy of silence" whose results are writ-

ten in countless wrecks of helpless children, in family deteriorations—nor all our “Piety and Wit” can

“Nor all your Tears wash out a Word of it.”

The understanding of what had puzzled them developed among these boys and girls so wholesomely and satisfyingly that there was no sensational comment, no embarrassments, no disturbance inside or outside the classes. Parents and school boards were not startled because children were not. This, too, is a reason for calling it ideal. More than one teacher said, “Do not mention my name. *Talking about it would spoil all my work.*”

Over-emphasis is as fatal as omission in this at present. Well-balanced mothers can appreciate the wisdom of the teachers. It is a mistake for school-men to hand around circulars as some are doing this year, “How we teach sex hygiene to girls,” and the like, which recent “sex hygiene” propaganda have stimulated them to do. Why girls, and not boys? Why “sex hygiene” and not “mouth hygiene” or “house sanitation” and other equally important and neglected fields in hygiene? It must not be forgotten that there are very many people who are carried away by words, seeing little of the vistas beyond, people of the classes who were ancient phallic worshippers; of those who have built up this civilization with its terrible wrongs between the sexes, looking no higher than “sex”—an abortion of right ideals of life.

One of these teachers has just published through D. C. Heath and

Company a little book on how she taught her children that is really wonderful. Its illustrations are as wonderful as its text. One thing even more remarkable than the book is something she could not possibly reproduce, although she has succeeded unusually well in her attempt to do so. I mean her work with the children themselves. They surpassed many a college class in biologic science with their thoroughness and drawings from life. They were as fascinated with the work, every child with no exception, as children have proved to be in all such classes where there are competent teachers. In our present decade no school child is too young and no reader too old to follow with interest Ellen Torrelle's “Plant and Animal Children: How They Grow.” Its charm is in its simple directness of presenting Nature's ways.

The conception of life that these teachers were seeing develop unconsciously in their pupils' minds is that it comes from an infinite past, to which they are responsible for its safe passing to an infinite future. But it is not stated in these bald words. That the race idea and race responsibility were, however, as said, unconsciously growing was evidenced in many ways, one being through periodic little reports of their work. Later we may quote some of them.

Probably the most strengthening inspiration with which we can launch any child into self-directed activities is a definite understanding of unescapable infinite personal responsibility, “something to live for,” a “moral backbone.”

After children's interest and an up-to-date director of gardens are secured the next step is to select the places for the gardens. The ideal is to have enough land around schoolhouses without interfering with playgrounds. I have seen several so fortunate.

Frequently there is a vacant lot next the school which is secured by renting, or at no expense—its use a gift until sold, or by purchase. This last is the true way. Ownership encourages more efforts in beautifying. Or a vacant lot within easy walking distance may be found either for rent or free use "until we have a chance to sell"—an overhanging cloud. Sometimes a motherly neighbor is so good as to allow a portion of her generous grounds to be used; and sometimes they have not been "generous grounds," but only little enclosures, where children and gardens thrived, the "widow's mite" counting for as much as the millionaire's.

These school gardens are sometimes in cramped backyards of city tenements, and on old dumping grounds that children have cleared off. One dear little garden was begun in a narrow level between the schoolhouse and a steep grassy bank about eight feet high running up to an ugly fence. The level bit was about fifteen feet wide and forty feet long, paved all over with brick; and it was the only possibility in the yard for realizing their heart's desire, a garden, without crowding the playgrounds.

The children of primary grades brought from their homes their toy tools and attacked the bricks with all the zeal they put into "mud

pies." Under this paving they found a foot deep mass of broken stone, brick, iron, etc., thrown there after the building was completed. This was not in the "original contract"; but it did not daunt them. They never enjoyed their little carts more than in using them here. It took weeks of "nature study" lessons to clear away this un-gardenable stuff—weeks of "perfectly splendid fun" out of doors.

Then a fifteen by forty feet hole was left. They had two or three entertainments to which mothers came, and with the admission fees bought loads of loam and fertilizer to fill the hole, with enough money over to buy seeds. The garden has flourished ever since. The grassy bank and ugly fence are transformed into lovely supplements, and this year's pupils have no idea of how that early generation worked, nor of the better men and women they are making because a wise teacher inspired them to labor hard and perseveringly to overcome difficulties in attaining a beautiful idea, with outdoor "gymnastics" thrown in.

I know another garden developed out of a steep stony hillside back of a grammar school, the only vacant place near. It was either that or no garden. The principal and pupils who "elected" gardening have year after year made terrace after terrace on this hillside until now there are perhaps eight fine ones with a small glass hothouse in the middle, all their own work, under a leader alive to relative values in education.

One delight in school gardening

is it cannot be fessi—I should say put “in pedagogic form,” “systematized.” Every garden is a problem of itself. It must be developed according to its own possibilities, adapted to its own environment. Therefore every garden has an individuality of its own.

MICHIGAN MOTHERS

In Governor Ferris' inaugural address he protests vigorously against the unsanitary conditions of schoolhouses in Michigan, which he has been noticing “for more than quarter of a century.” He prophesies truly that probably no one reform would exert a greater influence in reducing the death rate of children than would sanitary schools.

The prevalence of much more tuberculosis among teachers than among the general public reported

by the State Board of Health of Michigan was quoted and discussed in the MAGAZINE serials on cleaning schoolhouses of the last three years. All this testifies to the neglect of school housecleaning by Michigan's housekeepers, the Mothers.

“School Janitors, Mothers and Health” has collected all these serials, revised them and added nearly as much more helpful material. It has been specially arranged for mothers' meetings, with suggestions for programs and for community service. Clubbing rates can be learned by writing the publishers, 52 North Fourth Street, Easton, Pa. In planning next winter's work, as many program committees will soon be doing, they should be mindful that there is no neglected housekeeping causing greater harm than school housekeeping—mothers' children and mothers' work.

Our Helper

J. M. D

Joy has come, and joy has flown;
All life's pleasures you have known;

But your soul no lasting happiness has won!

Unto Jesus look to-day,
From the paths of sin away,—

*For the Savior came to seek the
sinning one!*

Sorrows that you cannot share
Simply let the Savior bear,—

And they'll melt away like snow-
drops in the sun!

And a gentle sense of peace

Soon will bid the tempest cease,—

*For the Savior longs to soothe the
suffering one!*

If a friend you cannot find,—

If the whole world seems unkind,—

Think of what, for you, on Cal-
vary was done!

Though your soul be dark as night,
He will guide your steps aright,—

*For the Saviour loves to lead the
sinning one!*

The Kindergarten as a Forward Movement

DR. FREDERICK EBY

University of Texas

EDUCATORS have never done full justice to the profound services of the Kindergarten and the doctrines of Froebel which it represents. They have not adequately recognized that the most vital educational movements of our day are either directly or indirectly traceable to the work of Froebel. Wherever the Kindergarten has gone pedagogical formalism and mechanical teaching have disappeared. It has completely transformed primary work within the past generation. Through the influence of the Kindergarten, music, drawing, color-work, constructive work of all kinds, and the more psychological and natural methods of teaching reading have been introduced into the schools. Yet many up-to-date teachers of primary work berate the Kindergarten and appear totally ignorant that all these progressive methods come directly from Froebelianism. From this same source the advanced grades have received manual training, nature-study, gardening, play and several other important additions to the course of study. The most significant educational doctrine of the past twenty years, that of social education, came directly from the kindergarten circle and from Froebel's doctrine of *Gliedganzen*, the relating of the child through his activities to human institutions. We are compelled to inquire in astonishment why such liberal services have not received more ample recognition. One reason may be that Kindergarten principles have been

kept aloof from ordinary pedagogy, and Kindergartners have been too narrow in their interests. They have not understood that the principles of pedagogy are the same for all ages and stages of child life, and that Froebel's laws are true for all education.

The progress of Kindergarten has been retarded by circumstances arising both from within and without, and these must be removed before progress can be expected.

The Kindergarten has a wonderful mission to perform in the industrial society of our times. It is perfectly evident that more and more women will be forced into the ranks of labor. The care of their children throughout the hours of the day may devolve upon properly conducted Kindergartens, just as the children of Rome are trained in the *Case dei Bambini* which Madam Montessori directs. All school systems in industrial communities should be compelled to furnish kindergarten facilities for the children. No one who has reflected upon the matter doubts that the age from four to seven is crucial for the development of the most important instincts of the child's nature. Another reason why the Kindergarten should be made an integral factor in state education lies in the fact that it will greatly lengthen the number of years of schooling for the vast masses of children who are compelled at an early age to leave school.

Every age has its *Zeitgeist* which

inevitably finds expression in a new view of education. Some of the characteristics of the era upon which human society is entering are not difficult to discern. It will exalt social duty, and be more efficient, creative, and artistic in production, and if we believe the new prophets, Bergson and Eucken, it will be more intensely spiritual. Where shall we look for a discipline better fitted to embody such a full and harmonized conception of liberalized manhood and womanhood than in the theory and practices of Froebel? Let us remember the Kindergarten, despite

its weaknesses, is still the one and only school which recognizes without compromise that man's true nature is realized in the spiritual creation of truth, beauty, justice, philanthropy, and holiness. It alone has striven to produce perfect personality by liberating, training and organizing the inner spontaneous forces. It alone views education as a process of organic development. The extension of the principles of the Kindergarten upward through all grades to the University is, in my view, the most important step in the advancement of education.

What Oregon School Girls Do—Why Not Suggest it to Your Daughter?

Students of Lincoln High School, Portland, Oregon, have formed a club to promote simplicity in dress.

The fact that the suggestion to form this club came from the girls themselves is from the point of view of the teachers and parents the most interesting and satisfactory part of the whole movement. During the past few years extravagance has grown so among the young people that it has become a serious problem to provide for them. The girls wanted to have silk petticoats and hose, ruffles, fancy waists and suede pumps because "the others" did, and their vanity was a thing for mothers to worry over and for fathers to accumulate gray hairs at trying to pay the bills.

The teachers are delighted with the efforts of the girls and will do all in their

power to make the club a success, but they will not take any credit for its existence. Their praises are all for the pupils. Miss Terry, head of the art department at Lincoln School, said yesterday: "The girls are doing something worth while. They will be happier in their simple gowns and sensible shoes and will from an artistic point of view be far more beautiful."

T. T. Davies, principal of the school, is pleased and will give the girls every opportunity to make the Common-Sense Club a success. He said yesterday that it never would have been as effectual had the idea been broached by the faculty, but when it came from the hearts of the young people and they were in dead earnest it was bound to be a power for good.

Thy Mother

Lead thy mother tenderly
Down life's steep decline,
Once her arms was thy support,
Now she leans on thine.
See upon her loving face
Those deep lines of care?
Think—it was her toil for thee
Left that record there.

Ne'er forget her tireless watch
Kept by day and night,
Taking from her step the grace;
From her eyes the light.

Cherish well her faithful heart,
Which through weary years
Echoed with its sympathy
All the smiles and tears.

Thank God for thy mother's love,
Guard the priceless boon,
For the bitter parting hour
Cometh all too soon.
When thy graceful tenderness
Loses power to save,
Earth will hold no dearer spot
Than thy mother's grave.

How Pensions for Widows Were Won in Oregon

ELIZABETH HAYHURST

Secretary of Widows' Pension Committee

At the Child-Welfare Conference held in Portland, Oregon, November, 1911, Mrs. G. H. Robertson's address, "What the State Owes to its Fatherless Children," was read, and during the discussion that followed, a motion was carried that the Oregon Congress of Mothers prepare a Widows' Pension Bill to be presented to the next Legislature. The President, Mrs. R. H. Tate, named a special committee consisting of Mrs. C. J. Smith, Mrs. R. E. Bondurant, Mrs. W. W. Williams, Mrs. J. E. Rand, Mrs. C. W. Hayhurst, with the President as ex-officio member, to proceed toward enactment of such Legislation.

Mrs. Smith moved from the city last June, and shortly after Mrs. Bondurant was made chairman by the President. It proved to be a wise choice, for she has given constant, indefatigable attention to this measure, besides advancing funds most liberally to carry on the work. Only those who have worked intimately with her know of the time and work she has given to this cause.

The committee was most fortunate in securing Judge L. R. Webster as attorney—a man who has had large experience in legislative affairs as well as being actively interested in humanitarian measures. After securing all obtainable data from the various states that have pension laws, suggestions were asked from our Juvenile Court, our Child Labor Commissioner, and our Charity Boards, and from this mass of information the committee im-

provised a bill which was drafted into legal form by Judge Webster. Copies of the bill were sent to every Grange and to every club in the State, asking for their endorsement; also, to every newspaper in the State with letters asking them to give the bill publicity. In most cases it was received with approval and splendid support. As soon after the election, which occurred November 5, as the names of the Legislators were secured by the committee, a copy of the bill with a letter of appeal was sent to each one.

Then ninety petitions were prepared and sent to co-workers in various counties, asking them to have them filled with signatures of voters requesting their senators and representatives to support the measure, which was presented to the members later.

Wherever possible personal calls were made upon members of legislature by the committee, and where this was not possible letters were written asking for further suggestions. After receiving these suggestions, some amendments were made to the original draft.

The committee has been greatly aided by the splendid article in THE CHILD-WELFARE MAGAZINE and "The Delineator" and by the helpful suggestions received from Judge Ben Lindsey, Judge Porterfield, of Kansas City, where the Widows' Pension Law is giving such splendid results; Judge Wilbur D. Curtis, of Los Angeles. The Juvenile Protective Association of

Chicago, and the Mothers' Congress of Idaho and of Washington.

Some idea of the work done may be realized when I say that over one thousand letters and over 2500 pages of typewritten matter were sent out over the State, and this, with seventeen days of personal work done by different members of the committee at the State Capital, which is fifty miles distant from our home city, was done at a total cost of less than \$100 to the Congress, and how well the work was done I leave for you to glean from the fact that the bill has passed both houses *just as presented* with only one dissenting vote, and to-day, February 8, 1913, was signed by Governor West. The bill as passed follows:

A BILL (House Bill No. 169), introduced by Committee on Health and Public Morals, by request of Oregon Congress of Mothers, and read first time January 21, 1913, for an Act to provide for the assistance and support of women whose husbands are dead or are inmates of some Oregon State institution or who are physically or mentally unable to work and who have a child or children dependent for support wholly or partly upon their labor.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

Sec. 1. Every woman, who has one or more children under the age of sixteen years and whose husband is either dead or is an inmate of some Oregon State institution, or by reason of physical or mental disease is wholly unable to work, and whose support and the support of whose child or children is dependent wholly or partly upon her labor, shall be entitled to the assistance as provided for in this Act for the support of herself and of her child, or children.

Sec. 2. Subject to subsequent provisions of this Act, every woman, as provided by Sec. 1, who is herself, and all of whose children are wholly dependent upon her labor for support shall receive from the public moneys of the county in which she and her child or children reside the sum of ten dollars per month for one child and if she have more than one residing with her, seven dollars and fifty cents per month for each of such additional children.

Sec. 3. Subject to subsequent provisions of this Act, every woman, as provided in Sec. 1, who is herself, and all of whose children are, partly dependent upon her labor for support shall receive from the public moneys of the county in which she and her child or children shall reside, such a sum per month as, added to her other income (other than that derived from her labor), shall be equal to the amount which she would receive if she was subject to the provisions of Sec. 2 of this Act.

Sec. 4. The provision of this Act shall not apply to any which has property of its own sufficient for its support, nor to any child which does not reside with its mother.

Sec. 5. It is the purpose and intention of this Act to keep the children, to which it is applicable, together under the guidance and control of their mother, and that the mother shall make a home for the children; and if, in the judgment of the tribunal which is to administer this law as hereinafter provided, any mother of such children is improvident, careless or negligent in the expenditure of the money received pursuant to this Act, such tribunal may direct that such money shall be paid to some person, whom it shall designate, to be used for the support of such mother and children.

Sec. 6. The Juvenile Court in each county or whatever tribunal is charged by law with the discharge of the duties of such court, shall have exclusive jurisdiction in carrying out and administering the provisions of this Act.

Sec. 7. Whenever the tribunal, mentioned in Sec. 6, shall determine that an allowance under this Act shall be made, it shall make an order to that effect, which order, among other things, shall set out in full the name of the mother, her place of residence, the names and ages of each of the children, and the amount allowed to each child, and upon presentation of such order, the County Court shall direct monthly warrants to be drawn therefor.

Sec. 8. For the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this Act, the tribunal, mentioned in Sec. 6, shall have power to summon witnesses and compel their attendance and pay them the same as witnesses in criminal cases are paid.

Sec. 9. Whenever any woman on whose account any allowance shall have been made under the provisions of this Act, shall marry, such allowance shall cease, and no allowance for any child shall continue after such child shall have reached the age of sixteen years.

Sec. 10. This Act shall apply only to women who are residents of this State at the time this Act is passed or who were residents of the State at the time of the occurrence of the events which entitle them to the benefits of this Act as provided by Sec. 1.

Do You Want Programs for Your Meetings?

"What shall we have for our program?" Is the question puzzling many leaders of Mothers' Circles and Parent-Teacher Associations. To meet that need efficiently one must make the program of real helpfulness to parents in their own home problems. One should also give the broader viewpoint by keeping the members informed as to current efforts for child welfare outside the home. One should also have a summary of what is done by other parents' circles from month to month. This will give work for three persons at each meeting.

If the circle meets in a school the teacher should have time given to speak of matters about which parents should be informed.

A program arranged in this way will surely broaden the outlook and be of practical help to parents.

SUGGESTED PROGRAM FOR A MOTHERS' CIRCLE.

A useful and varied program for parents' associations can be arranged as follows, using CHILD WELFARE MAGAZINE, current issue.

Three persons should be asked to give the program for the meeting.

First Topic: The Child in the Home, by Mrs.—. For this the articles on "Children's Questions" and "Educate the Whole Child" should be read and time for discussion given.

Second Topic: Current Efforts for Child Welfare Outside the Home, by Mrs.—.

A summary should be given of "Mothers' Activities in Legislation," "The Kindergarten as a Forward Movement," "What Oregon School Girls Do," "Proposed Investigation of Education of Girls."

Third Topic: "What Other Mothers' Circles and Parent-Teacher Associations are doing," by Mrs.—.

Summary of Notable work from State News of Parent-Teacher Work.

The Message of the Flag

A Patriotic Exercise for Children

MRS. MILTON P. HIGGINS

Dedicated to National Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations. Five copies for 25 cts.

The above musical play is admirable for children and will interest any audience. Over fifty children can take part in it. It is

recommended to parents and teachers who wish to give an entertainment both interesting and inspiring.

Send orders to National Congress of Mothers, 806 Loan and Trust Building, Washington, D. C.

Children's Questions

SCOTT—PARENTS' REVIEW

One faculty of the child mind which should be a great help to us, is often looked upon as the reverse—is curiosity. All little children are naturally curious, it is the way God has made them, and therefore right. I think we can never be too ceaselessly reminding ourselves that all a child's natural activities, natural ways of doing and looking at things are the expression of laws which his nature must follow if he is to develop rightly, and we must arrange lawful outlets for all natural energies and instincts. If each plant has to be studied by the gardener that he may guide its development according to its own laws, one rose requiring hard pruning, another to be left rambling, how much more with this wonderful and complex human organism?

I am quite sure we want to constantly ask ourselves, are we pruning when we should allow to grow, or encouraging long, useless trails when we should ruthlessly prune? This curiosity for instance—this God-given gift, which alas! is so often stamped out of us before we grow very old. How deadly dull we must often seem to the child. We accept so much with indifference, without questioning, merely because it has happened many times and so all the old miracle and wonder has gone from it. Not so to the fresh eyes of the little child, all the glory and the mystery and the wonder is still about them, and they are born with this natural instrument for obtaining knowledge,

this curiosity and the power of asking questions; but we do our best to destroy it and say "Nay, you must not grow this way, you are *not* a climbing rose, we intend you to be a cabbage." So what wonder is it that the human race progresses slowly, that we are content with things as they are? The wonder of the infinite is ever around us but we seldom see it.

Why do people constantly seek to avoid children's questions, to discourage them from asking? I think it is first, because children's questions *are* often hard to answer, there are so many unsolved riddles in the universe; and secondly, for teachers in a school they are hard to manage in a practical, ordered, disciplined way as part of school training; and thirdly, because over some subjects there has been for long a false shame. Of course, you do sometimes get the small child who puts his chatter in the form of the everlasting why. But most children's questions are essentially good and mean that the child's mind is alive and thinking; therefore, we must consider the best way of treating and answering them. First, let the answer be always truthful even if not complete. Indeed, often it cannot be complete or it would go beyond the child's present capacity. We must wait for the next question. Secondly, if we do not know, we must say so, but if there is a means of finding the answer, find it, if possible along with the child.

There is nothing so deadening to the little eager mind as to realize

that its elders are content to leave a question unanswered. The remembrance of that will come back and back and in time they too will be content to leave questions unanswered and seek no longer to climb the hill of knowledge. So many children have the idea that their elders cease to learn when they leave school—they should feel that we are always learning and eager to learn. Sometimes of course they ask unanswerable questions, what shall we do then? Tell them they are unanswerable? If Copernicus, Newton, and Marconi had done that the world would have been a poorer place. We can always hazard a suggestion and ask the children for theirs. There is nothing more fruitful in the development of mind.

Not only have parents to be ready to answer questions, but they should prepare the way and lead the child to ask those questions which every man and woman must have answered if they are to understand what life is. Too long have parents built up a wall of reserve between themselves and their children, too long have they behaved as if the

facts of life were things to be ashamed of, which their children must never question them openly about, but which they will have to learn in some darkened way from others less responsible. I would plead very earnestly for an utter change in this method. Not for less reverence, and, if you like, tender and beautiful reserve, but for perfect openness. Children should grow up to feel there is nothing to be ashamed of in their beautiful and wonderful bodies, but much to be revered. They have to be taught the need for rational and hygienic care, reverence for the awful power which will be theirs when they are men and women, they have to be warned against dangers but never taught shame. During their school life they begin to learn their duty to those who are to come after them in the school, the importance of leaving good traditions, a good inheritance for the younger children and those who will be in the school when they have left. In the same way they should learn their duty to the race which will succeed them in the larger school.

GOD'S HOUSE

God's house a lovely place must be,
So fair to see;
With angels all about who bid "good-
night" to me;
With shining moon and star,
Way up so far.
There are what kind of toys,
In heaven for little boys?
(Not toys? He must have toys for little
boys)
And do you think, if I were good,
That then, God would
Just let me have the moon
For my balloon?

HELEN M. PARSONS.

FISHING

When in the tub I fishing go,
Into the water, first I throw
My little ducks and-fishes small;
And then I try to catch them all
Just with the soap shaker as net;
It makes the jolliest you can get.
The little ducks go sailing by;
The fishes at the bottom lie:
But soon I have them, every one,
For Father's breakfast, my what fun!

HELEN M. PARSONS.

Is It Right or Wrong?

M. E. MUMFORD.

"THIS fall," said Aunt Jane with grim determination, "I'm going to treat myself to a brandnew bonnet. I've trimmed over that old black velvet until I am sure the people who sit in the pew back of me at St. Silas' know every stitch in it. That black satin bow has been turned upside down and t'other side out until it is too shabby to hold its head up any longer. That bunch of tips has been curled and recurled until it's a perfect frazzle. The buckle is real jet. I'll have that put on again, but everything else must be perfectly new."

Aunt Jane was talking to the dressmaker, who for the sum of two dollars a day and meals was fixing over her black satin dress—taking a useless breadth out of the skirt and remodeling the sleeves with the same into the latest fashion. The dressmaker, who also attended St. Silas' church and had a class in Sunday school, took great interest in this announcement.

"What style of hat was you thinking of, Miss Jane?"

"Well, now, I thought I would ask your advice. You go about a good deal, and see what people are wearing. There's so little that is suitable for women of my age. Young and pretty faces look well in anything, from a pancake to a sugar scoop, and the stores are full of whimsical shapes to suit their vagaries, but alas for the middle-aged or elderly! When we go into a shop the smiling saleslady takes us at once to a back show case full of frumpy things we are expected

to choose from—all alike—and all saying as plain as if they could talk, 'this will do for you—you're old.' I've made up my mind to work out a graceful shape for myself."

"I think my last season's frame will do tolerably well with new velvet and a handsome willow plume." As she said "willow plume" she glanced furtively at Miss Shedd, who, with her mouth full of pins, was bending over her cutting table chalking out a sleeve.

Aunt Jane had expected a look of mild surprise when she should announce the intended gayety of a willow plume, but she was not prepared for Miss Shedd's look of utter horror and disapproval.

"Willow plume!" she ejaculated while the pins dropped on the table from her open mouth, "how could you think of such a thing! Why, don't you know those plumes are made at the cost of flesh and blood! Didn't you read in the paper that the girls who make them get only four cents an inch—and eight inches is considered a task for a day—which means thirty-two cents for a day's work. Perhaps you don't look at it as I do, but I really couldn't keep straight with my conscience and wear a willow plume in my bonnet."

"Oh, dear," sighed Aunt Jane, "I suppose I will have to give it up. I had thought maybe a willow plume was a little youthful, but I hadn't considered it positively wicked. I'm sorry you told me because I could have worn that feather with great pleasure if I had not

known—but now.— Well,” she said cheerfully, after a moment’s reflection, “with new velvet and a handsome spray of artificial flowers I might feel satisfied.” To her surprise Miss Shedd bridled again: “I’m sorry to say it, but ‘artificial’ are just as bad. Why, I suppose if the truth was known artificial flowers have ruined more girls than anything else in the world. Five cents a gross is all they get for making them, and they work early and late, and handling the tiny leaves and petals and things is very hard on the eyes. Little mites of things—children—not much older than babies, work all day sorting out leaves and stems and stamens and do not earn enough to pay for the bread and milk they eat. Some of the girls in my Sunday school class—”

“Oh, very well,” interposed Aunt Jane—“I’m not *set* on a spray of artificial flowers—a nice large bow of silk or satin ribbon might be handsome enough—made up with my real jet buckle. There’s nobody going to death and perdition on account of making ribbon, is there?” It was plain she was just a little nettled.

“I don’t know as I’d ought to mention it,” said the relentless Miss Shedd, plainly resolved on doing her whole duty by her friend, “but I was at a meeting last night of the Friendship League and a lady present told how she had visited silk

mills all through the State—and what she found there. She and a friend applied for jobs and so went right in among the working girls day after day, and she told us those young things were no better off than absolute slaves. They worked twelve hours a day—and some of ’em were no more than babies in size and experience and they were docked if they made a mistake in their weaving—and they had no comfortable place to eat lunch and no toilet for their own use—and as for the mean pay”—“Hurrah! Hurrah!”—and a band of music broke in on the conversation. Both ladies threw down their sewing and hurried to the window.

“You read the sign on that banner, Miss Jane? My far-offs are in my bag and I can’t see a word with my near-to’s.” So Aunt Jane read: “Grand Rally to-night. Progress in the air. No more child labor! Minimum Wage for Women! A Better World for Everybody!”

Both women resumed their needles in silence. Presently Aunt Jane said, musingly, “They’ve got to work it out.” “Who?” queried Miss Shedd. “The people—the whole people for whom those voters stand, one woman’s little protest won’t signify. I’ll work with all my might for the principles on that banner—but I think I’ll have the willow plume on my winter bonnet.” “Hum,” said Miss Shedd.

Country Life Department

Hon. Logan Waller Page, Chief of the Good Roads Department of the United States Department of Agriculture, has accepted the chairmanship of the Country Life Department of the National Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations.

When child welfare is under consideration, there is no state which is so far advanced that it can afford to ignore the country child.

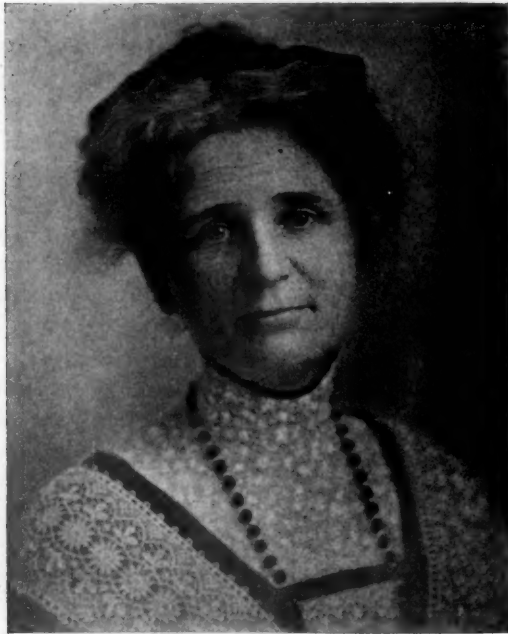
How to improve his opportunities, it will be the aim of the Country Life Department to show.

A LETTER TO THE COUNTRY LIFE DEPARTMENT.

"If I could only persuade the National Education Association to give their undivided attention to the rural schools and their problems, for the next five years, the children of the country schools might attain the advantages and education of the cities and towns. One can hardly believe the situation in the rural districts in regard to sanitation, ventilation, heating, curriculum, that are found here and elsewhere. The common pail and cup, the common free text-books, etc., what carriers of germs, tuberculosis, etc.; no handiwork, no music, no drawing, no physical training, I am not exaggerating. This is the situation right here although we have ex-

cellent running water and natural gas and all advantages. There are country school boards who will not accept suggestions, will not admit that any one knows more than they do. The remedy lies in the State giving the State Superintendent full control as to all these points and in legislation compelling the school boards to put in running water, heating plants, etc., when it is possible because of municipal utilities. The free text-book should exist; I would not abolish it, but I do contend it is a grave injustice to the child and the home to ask any child to use a school book used previously by another child and in whose home might have existed tuberculosis, or other diseases. I contend the books should be given outright. This has been brought forcibly to me, when my niece brought home a reader in whose fly-page was written the name of a child who has tuberculosis and whose father also has it. Save the child in the rural districts. Let CHILD-WELFARE MAGAZINE spend special effort in this manner and help us all out on these problems. Money is needed for free literature on these points for it is only through education of the parents that interest can be aroused and legislation procured."

FROM A COUNTRY MOTHER.



MRS. ROBERT H. LATE, CHAIRMAN FIRST STATE
CHILD-WELFARE COMMISSION.

Oregon Has First Child-Welfare Commission

Oregon has the honor of being the first State to appoint a Child-Welfare Commission to study the needs of children and conditions affecting them.

This commission is to report a year hence with recommendations as to what Oregon should do to hold front rank in the opportunities for life, health and morality of its future citizens, the children of to-day.

On the shores of the Pacific, amid the wondrous mountains, the mighty rivers, the giant forest trees, the wonderful orchards of Oregon, there has come into the Governor's chair a man who realizes that all the natural wonders of a great State are subsidiary to the protection of the children, to the care and uplift of the weak and erring.

A man with a heart which beats in sympathy with the poorest and lowliest is Governor West, of Oregon.

His work for the men and women in the State prison has evidenced his independence and common sense, and has placed him far in the lead in the method of treating those under prison sentence.

Even greater in its benefit to Oregon will be the exhaustive thoughtful study of

childhood's requirements which will be made by the Child-Welfare Commission to be incorporated later into the laws and customs of the State.

It means prevention of infant mortality, prevention of disease and crime; it means a higher type of humanity.

It means a greater Oregon where the natural beauties and wonders of that great State will be eclipsed by its men and women.

All honor to the citizens of to-day! To the Oregon Congress of Mothers which initiated and worked for the Widows' Pension, to the Legislature which passed the measure with but one dissenting vote, to the press of the State which gave its support, to the Governor who signed it! The National Congress of Mothers extends congratulations and gratitude that so great a State has so ably led the way in promotion of better opportunities for the children.

That Governor West has chosen Mrs. Robert H. Late, president of the Oregon branch of the Congress, as chairman of the first State Child-Welfare Commission, is a deserved honor to one who has done much for the best good of her State.

Aims and Purposes of National Congress of Mothers

To raise the standards of home life. To develop wiser, better-trained parenthood.

To give young people, ignorant of the proper care and training of children, opportunities to learn this, that they may better perform the duties of parenthood.

To bring into closer relations the home and the school, that parent and teacher may co-operate intelligently in the education of the child.

To surround the childhood of the whole world with that loving, wise care in the impressionable years of life, that will develop good citizens, instead of lawbreakers and criminals.

To carry the mother-love and mother-thought into all that concerns or touches childhood in Home, School, Church, State or Legislation.

To interest men and women to co-operate in the work for purer, truer homes, in the belief that to accomplish the best results, men and women must work together.

To secure such legislation as will ensure that children of tender years may not be tried in ordinary courts, but that each town shall establish juvenile courts and special officers, whose business it shall be to look out for that care which will rescue, instead of confirm the child in evil ways.

To work for such probationary care in individual homes rather than institutions.

To rouse the whole community to a sense of its duty and responsibility to the blameless, dependent and neglected children, because there is no philanthropy which will so speedily reduce our taxes, reduce our prison expenses, reduce the expense of institutions for correction and reform.

The work of the Congress is civic work in its broadest and highest sense, and every man or woman who is interested in the aims of the Congress is cordially invited to become a member and aid in the organized effort for a higher, nobler national life, which can only be attained through the individual homes.

EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE

Dr. M. V. O'SHEA, Madison, Wis.
Mrs. ORVILLE T. BRIGHT, 6515 Harvard Ave.,
Chicago, Ill., Vice-Chairman.
Miss GERTRUDE VAN HOESEN, Chicago University.
Prof. A. CASWELL ELLIS, Houston, Texas.
Prof. WM. A. McKEEVER, Manhattan, Kansas.
President H. L. WHITFIELD, Columbus, Miss.

Miss NAOMI NORWORTHY, Columbia University.
President ANNA J. McKEAG, Wilson College, Penna.
Prof. CHARLES McMURRAY, DeKalb, Ill.
Dr. ROBERT N. WILLSON, Phila., Pa.
Mrs. MARY D. BRADFORD, Kenosha, Wisconsin.
Prof. EDWARD ST. JOHN, Hartford, Conn.
Prof. E. A. KIRKPATRICK, Fitchburg, Mass.

State News

IMPORTANT NOTICE

News items from the States must be in the hands of the editorial board by the fifteenth of the previous month to ensure their appearance in the next magazine. The editorial board earnestly asks the attention of every press chairman to the necessity of complying with this rule.

ALABAMA

Governor McNeel, of Alabama, has appointed February 17th as Child-Welfare Day. He has announced his intention of appointing a Child-Welfare commission to study the conditions affecting children and report to the Governor.

ARIZONA

The annual convention of the Arizona branch National Congress of Mothers brought an attendance twice as large as we have had before. President Wilde, of Arizona University, spoke on "The Re-

lation of the High School to the Community." "State Institutions for Defective Children," "The Juvenile Court and Probation System," "The Dangerous Fly" were topics presented on the program.

Three new associations were admitted as members. Dr. Marian Wall Roberts, of Jerome, was appointed State Chairman of Child Hygiene. She has organized a Parent-Teacher Association in Jerome and has plans laid for organizing others in that part of the state.

The Arizona Congress will establish a circulating library. It will also conduct a Child-Welfare campaign in connection with the State Fair next fall.

We are looking forward to 1915, hoping to have a visit from the National President then, and hope before that to grow in numbers and strength.

CALIFORNIA

The California Congress of Mothers has presented a bill to the Legislature asking for establishment of kindergartens in all elementary schools, upon petition of the parents or guardians of at least 25 children between the ages of four and six years residing within half a mile of a school.

There are kindergartens in the schools of a number of cities but it is optional with school boards whether they are put in.

Mrs. Chalmers Smith, president of the Parent-Teacher Federation of Los Angeles, gives a most interesting report of the work for 1912.

The federation is composed of 122 parent-teacher circles, formed at individual schools, and, in its turn, is a link within the larger link of the State Congress of Mothers, the California branch of the National Congress of Mothers.

The same principles and ideals pertain to the National Congress, the largest federation, and the smallest circle—the betterment of the child and the instruction of the mother to a higher standard of motherhood. The Mothers' Congress found terrible infant mortality existing throughout America. It knew that only mothers could reduce this and it has, therefore, aroused the sentiment of the mothers of the nation and is inducing young mothers to study infant hygiene.

It is working for the enactment of laws making the imprisonment of children impossible, and has worked for the establishment of juvenile courts and the intelligent probationary care of young people. It believes that crime is preventable and that the home must realize its responsibility for social conditions and must train the children to meet the conditions that come to men and women. In these ways it hopes for the uplift of the standards of humanity.

As the Congress believes and works, so the federation. Where children in the public schools of Los Angeles are hungry and not sufficiently clothed, these mothers of the city establish the penny kitchen, where a bowl of steaming hot soup, plenty of bread and some fruit is served for a penny; they provide hot, free luncheons in the districts where the children cannot pay the penny, and they provide clothing through the individual circles and see that every applicant who is found to be really in need is furnished with enough clothes to keep clean and warm and thus

enable them to attend school in self respect.

One of the ambitions of the Los Angeles circles is to place talking machines and stereopticons in all the schools of the city, though that is left to the circles, the federation concerning itself with the greater philanthropic work.

No mother who appeals to the federation for aid is neglected. Many of the women give several days a week to the work of personal investigation of applicants, and from clothing and food to medical care nothing is held back where it is found that the cases are deserving ones.

Little children are relieved from the pain and consequent handicap in studying by operations on eyes, ears, teeth and throats. In cases where a small fee can be paid it is accepted to help the work along, but where there is no money forthcoming the work is given cheerfully for "love and the betterment of childhood."

There is seldom a day that this federation is not asked to indorse some measure of public interest, but it steadily refuses any side issues, taking the stand that the scope of its present work is large enough to demand all its time, energy and money.

It has back of it the hearty indorsement of the board of education and Superintendent Francis, and in co-operation with the board it stands ready to unite the home and school and to strengthen the social work of the school department.

During its two years' existence it has been led with the skill of an able general by Mrs. Chalmers Smith, who before that was president of the California Congress of Mothers for two years.

The officers of the federation are: President, Mrs. Chalmers Smith; first vice-president, Mrs. Harvey Trowbridge; second vice-president, Mrs. H. W. Creveling; third vice-president, Mrs. C. D. Wilbur; fourth vice-president, Mrs. Charles Adair; fifth vice-president, Mrs. Catherine Pierce Wheat; recording secretary, Mrs. E. L. Geraldine; corresponding secretary, Mrs. R. S. Lanterman; financial secretary, Mrs. Julia D. Noble; treasurer, Mrs. C. C. Noble; auditor, Mrs. F. L. Scofield; historian, Mrs. Harry Huston; parliamentarian, Mrs. D. K. Trask.

Mrs. Chalmers Smith's report says:

"In making a report of the past year's work of the federation, I realize that the statistics given by officers and department chairmen do not, in any way, record the work accomplished. Only the records kept by unseen hands tell of the little hearts made glad, of the lonely hours brightened, and the better environment of hundreds of children, better because father and mother have more understanding of their responsibility.

"Never before have we so nearly lived up to the aim of the federation, 'To give every child the opportunity to develop his highest possibilities, physically, mentally, and morally, and to throw the protecting care of intelligent parenthood about every child.'

"One of our duties is educating public sentiment for the things which we desire so the board of education will have the support of the public when its members wish, or we desire, changes in our school system. Much of this has been made possible because we are so fortunate as to have as superintendent of our schools a man who is both an educator and a practical business man. Is it any wonder that our school system is famous with J. H. Francis as the head?

"During the coming year I hope we will work for, first, the free text-book bill, when we are sure which is the right bill; second, for the bill making kindergartens compulsory; third, a more simple course of study for both grammar and high school; one eliminating the non-essentials, if we can decide what they are; fourth, physical training for physical development, not endurance tests; fifth, a day designated by all schools as 'Parent Day,' when every parent will be expected to visit the school, the church to be asked to give one service the preceding Sabbath, the subject to be 'Parental Responsibility'; sixth, a child-welfare exhibit. This has already been discussed, and Mrs. Frank Fay is the state chairman of this work; seventh, let us encourage the establishment of more open air schools and social centers; eighth, why not more men as officers not only in the federation, but in every organization?

"In all this let us be sure that politics enters not into the work; let not the federation or any of its associations be used as the political tail to anybody's kite, but let us see to it that the people who are responsible for conditions, take care of them—but do not judge by looks, unless you look inside.

"I wish to thank my associates on the executive board, the department chairmen, committee presidents and individuals who have worked with a spirit of 'get together' which has made this a memorable year; also all connected with the school department, the chamber of commerce, the city council, the city and county departments, and the daily press for their splendid co-operation at all times."

The Los Angeles Parent-Teacher Associations have a membership of 9000 parents.

Special School Edition of "The Evening Herald" to aid the Parent-Teacher Associations financially.

After a strenuous day in which members of the Parent-Teacher federation sold

thousands of copies of the special edition of The Evening Herald, which was published for them and turned over to them exclusively, the women are to-day enjoying a well-earned rest, happy in the thought that the money made will be divided among the various departments of the federation.

From 11 o'clock in the morning until half past 6 prominent members of the federation drove to The Herald office in machines decorated with "Parent-Teacher Evening Herald" banners, and, having secured bundles of papers, whirled away to deliver them to the citizens of Los Angeles, who, eager for the paper, were also glad of the opportunity to help the federation. From Mrs. Chalmers Smith, president of the federation, to little three-year-old Lady Betty Buxton, every one connected with the association vied to make the day a great success and to increase the fund for the federation.

A large group of women were busy guiding visitors to the various institutions maintained by the P.-T. A., such as the clinic, the day nurseries and the penny kitchen.

Hundreds, having read of the good being wrought by these institutions, in the columns of The Herald during the week preceding rally day, assembled at Central park, which was the starting point, and spent half the day, or all the day as the case might be, on a tour of inspection.

The next gathering of the Parent-Teacher federation will be May 31, when the present council of presidents will meet for the last time.

When the federation convenes again it will be to change officers, and with the recent elections of 122 circles there will be many new members in the council for the June meeting.

The entire day was a success, the women proving that even under the unusual experience of playing newsies they were "game," and no small boy ever sold papers with higher spirits than the members of the Parent-Teacher federation.

The remarkable growth and development of the Los Angeles public schools is not alone a boast of Southern California, but has been the cause of glowing praise to the shores of the Atlantic. Educators from far and near have written and spoken of the "greatest system of public schools in America," and predictions are made that Los Angeles is steadily developing into a great cultural center because of, and through, her public schools.

The cultural growth of the schools, however, is hand in hand with a phase of education which enables a practical application of the twelve years of school work to real life. The boys and girls are turned out capable workmen and women with a respect for independence and their ability

to be active economic factors in life, as well as to appreciate and contribute to the artistic side of living.

Back of this system stands the man who is largely responsible, in the last few years, for this combination of cultural and vocational work—the man who is developing a system whereby the younger generations of Los Angeles will be graduated fully equipped to meet the demands of the present day and the little aliens are being transformed into patriotic, appreciating Americans.

It is John H. Francis, conceded to be one of the foremost educators in the United States; a man who gives generously of brain and heart; who works for the good of all, disregarding personalities in the system, building wisely and well to return to the city a better citizenship than it has ever had before.

Mr. Francis unconsciously mirrored his working theory in an address he once gave when he said, "Those who can, do; those who can't, criticise."

Of the first class, a worker who has a large fund of cheerfulness and encouragement for other workers, he has made his impression on the city, and men, women and children acclaim with pleasure every opportunity they have of paying their highest tribute to this well loved citizen.

Seven hundred school children of varying nationalities, every one of whom had been treated at the Hospital Clinic of the Parent-Teachers' Association Federation during the past year, were radiantly happy guests yesterday at a great Christmas party given in Blanchard Hall.

This unique affair, first of its kind in the history of Los Angeles, had been planned by the Clinic Committee and the doctors, dentists and surgeons who are caring for the children every day of the school year, assisted by members of the Federation.

Seven hundred is but a small part of those who have been made strong and well by the Clinic's ministrations; who have grown from thin, anemic little creatures to rosy, round and dimpled boys and girls, and best of all, perhaps, statistics prove, have increased a hundred per cent, in their efficiency for study, self-control and initiative.

A Message from Mark Keppel, County Superintendent of Schools, is as follows: To the Los Angeles Parent-Teacher Associations:

I hope you will go on until the reform schools and detention homes are no more; until the curse of child labor shall be lifted from the land and until the right of every child to a square deal shall be realized in its fullest, highest and best sense.

COLORADO

The people at Holly, Colo., have started a new method of teaching Domestic Science.

The teacher takes the girls to a house and the mother there teaches the lesson in cooking. The children are marked for their work by the mother and teacher, and it becomes a part of the school work. This scheme dispenses with a domestic science outfit in the school.

The pupils are taken to different homes for different lessons. Of course, this method has its limitations, but it is suggestive, and is possible for schools not equipped for such teaching in the school.

Mrs. Fred. Dick, President, Colorado Branch, National Congress of Mothers, spent the last few days of January in Victor, Cripple Creek, and Goldfield, organizing Parent-Teacher Associations. Because of the continually changing population of these mining camps, they are most difficult to reach with any work that extends into the future. Mrs. Dick's coming and purpose had, however, been heralded before her and the first morning in Victor she met a warm welcome from a large group of mothers and fathers, who became very enthusiastic as the work of the Mothers' Congress was put before them. Upon Mrs. Dick's request they discussed their needs, which proved to be gymnasium and playground, social center and public library. With these objects in view they organized then and there, elected officers for the year and later appointed committees to begin at once a systematic effort to secure for the children of Victor these necessities to their welfare. In the afternoon The Woman's Club was addressed by Mrs. Dick and their hearty co-operation with the new organization promised. Next on the program was Cripple Creek, where 150 women assembled to hear Mrs. Dick's message. Their needs proved to be identical with those of Victor. A gymnasium with playground near would afford a splendid social center. And at once a permanent organization was formed, the wife of the superintendent of schools being elected an officer. In Goldfield, built on steep hills, the cry was the same, no place for children to play; a social center where the young people might meet and have their pleasures under supervision of parents or teachers is an absolute necessity, and an organization was formed at once, making three in as many days to add to Colorado's rapidly growing branch of the national organization. Goldfield will secure a public school building for its social center. Mrs. Dick returned to Denver feeling well repaid for her work. The three new circles with such splendid aims

in view, will hardly fail to grow and to promote substantially the welfare of the child.

CONNECTICUT

The Executive Board of the Connecticut Congress of Mothers held their January meeting at the Garden Hotel, Hartford. The number of delegates present was twenty-seven. The following clubs were listed for prospective membership in the Congress: The Christ Church Club, Hartford, President, Mrs. Fred. M. Warren; the Yalesville Mothers' Club, President, Mrs. Robert F. Miner; the Wallingford Colony Street School Club, President, Mrs. William P. Wilson; and the Trinity Church Parish Mothers' Club, Hartford.

The meeting gave much attention to matters of legislation pending before the General Assembly of the state. The chairman of the Committee on Juvenile Courts read a bill asking for the establishment of five such tribunals, one for each congressional district. It provides for suitable rooms and detention houses for young offenders apart from the adult quarters, and probation officers are to stand sponsor for the prisoners until trial. The bill would carry an appropriation of \$25,000. The President was authorized to select a committee of five to appear before the hearings in the Legislature.

The matter of pensions for teachers was also brought before the Board by Miss Jennie O'Neil, of Waterbury, representing the Teachers' State League. The bill under consideration provides for a straight state pension, with no contribution on the part of teachers. All teachers who have been engaged in service for thirty years, fifteen of which have been in the state, are to be entitled to a pension equivalent to 40 per cent. of their average wages during the preceding five years. This measure received the endorsement of the Board.

Another bill provided for fire escapes on school buildings, all structures two or more stories in height to be furnished with two exits.

At its regular meeting of February 3d, the Hartford Motherhood Club entered upon a new activity through the appointment of a Housewives' League Committee, with Mrs. Levi C. Taylor as its chairman. This committee was created under the inspiration of an address of Mrs. Julian Heath, President of the National Housewives' League, who spoke before the Club on January 6th. On February 17th this Club also fittingly observed Child-Welfare Day. The children of the members of the Club were its guests, and entertainment and instruction of a high order were furnished by Dr. Charles A. Eastman, of Amherst College, who appeared in Indian

costume and spoke upon the subject of "Indian Boyhood." Dr. Eastman's ripe scholarship and fine culture furnish a striking example of the possibilities of the race from which our forefathers wrested this continent.

The Rocky Hill Motherhood Club will act as hostesses of the Connecticut Congress of Mothers on the occasion of its annual convention, April 24th and 25th. Committees of the club members have been appointed and preparations are well under way for the occasion.

DELAWARE

The Parent-Teacher Association of Milford held a business meeting in the High School Building. Miss Marvin's fourth grade boys and girls sang two school songs that did credit to their training. Miss Isabel Kespert, music, "Roper's Chimes," a piano solo. Miss Tally, supervisor of the Wilmington Play Grounds for the past seven years explained all the good that comes through trained play. The rules that govern the Play Ground, stand for Organization, Moral Uplift, Supervised Play, Physical Exercise, Physical Cleanliness and Fair Play. When these things are a part of the child life, Civic Pride, Good Citizenship and Good Government will follow.

Seaford Association is endeavoring to have Domestic Science introduced in its school in order to hold the girls.

The two play grounds of Dover have been fitted up with many things to please the child and are much enjoyed.

The boys and girls are doing splendid work in the Manual Training Department. A meeting in the Manual Training room will soon be held at which time there will be a public exhibition of their work.

The Dover Parent-Teacher Association met February 4 in the Manual Training room of the public school building. Professor George Messersmith, principal of the school, gave an outline of the work of this department and exhibited articles made by both girls and boys. He told of a plan to give the pupils credit for domestic work done in the home, to encourage the children to become useful and helpful in their homes and to feel that they have a duty to perform in the daily routine of domestic life.

Mr. Fred C. Haegle, instructor of manual training, gave a very instructive talk on "Why Manual Training Should Be Taught." The principal reason was that it is a character builder.

Our association is very proud of this new department because it is through our efforts that this department has been introduced in the schools.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

"Big sisters" and "big brothers" are wanted in Washington. A movement to provide them was started at the January meeting of the District Congress of Mothers at the Raleigh Hotel. That young delinquents might be helped by the sympathetic friendship of some older person was pointed out by Mrs. Fred T. Dubois. Several persons attending the meeting volunteered to attend the sessions of the Juvenile Court and get in touch with minor offenders who are paroled and become "big sisters" to them, and help them solve their problems.

Mrs. Dubois will have lists of the paroled children made daily, and she is anxious to interest enough men and women in the movement so as to provide all the youngsters with big sisters or big brothers.

Members of the congress were urged to write to members of Congress and District officials and ask for more policemen here and higher salaries for them. A woman member of the police force was also urged.

A resolution was adopted requesting all women in the District to use their efforts to have saloons closed on inauguration day. Saloons and motion picture shows in the vicinity of schoolhouses were also discussed, as well as the wider use of school buildings.

A large luncheon at the Raleigh Hotel was given to celebrate Child-Welfare Day, February 17th, the seventeenth anniversary of the founding of the National Congress of Mothers.

The Mothers' Congress in the District is using its influence to secure the passage of a bill to open the public schoolhouses for educational purposes. It is also working for the passage of the Teachers' Annuity bill.

It is asking Congress to pass a bill preventing children under 16 from going to moving picture shows unless accompanied by an adult.

The congress is asking that a woman be placed on the police force to safeguard young girls.

The passage of a bill to enable mothers to keep their families together if the mother is a proper guardian for the children is strongly urged.

GEORGIA

Establishment of milk depots at convenient points throughout Atlanta, where pure milk for infants can be obtained at a moderate cost, and, in necessary cases, free—a movement expected to save the lives of thousands of Atlanta babies—will be one of the aims of the Atlanta branch

of the Georgia Mothers' Congress for the year 1913. The Atlanta Chamber of Commerce is working toward the same end and has asked the co-operation of the women's organization.

"Such stations would save thousands of babies' lives," declared Dr. S. A. Visanska in an address to the members of the congress at a meeting held yesterday afternoon at the Atlanta Woman's Club. Dr. Visanska had been asked to address the meeting on the milk situation in Atlanta.

MRS. T. K. GLENN HEADS COUNCIL

The meeting held by the Atlanta branch of the Georgia Congress of Mothers was presided over by Mrs. James R. Little and was called especially for the purpose of getting in closer touch with the officers of the parent-teacher organizations and the principals of the schools.

Officers of the parent-teacher neighborhood clubs and principals of the schools organized a council with Mrs. T. K. Glenn as president. The council will meet every three months and will discuss ways and means of keeping teachers and parents in closer touch with each other. Plans are being made to have several noted speakers address meetings of the two organizations, the meetings to be open to the public, and some of the problems which face both mothers and teachers in the education and upbringing of children will be discussed. Among the speakers will be Dr. John Campbell, of Athens, Ga., professor of biology.

Hygiene was discussed at the meeting by Dr. Theodore Toepel, who urged that mothers should tell their children of the mysteries of life before they get a perverted idea of it from older playmates. He urged that children should be taught concerning this important subject as soon as they are old enough to understand.

Mrs. Hamilton Douglas, organizer of the parent-teacher neighborhood clubs, talked on extension work of the clubs. She declared herself willing to aid in organizing any district for the mutual advantage of the mothers and teachers.

Mrs. George Hinman told of the advantage of the children's story hour in holding the interest of the little ones and teaching them things they ought to know.

Miss Lang, chairman of the recreation department, spoke on organizing clubs for boys and girls for the purpose of arousing their interest along beneficial lines.

Dr. Catherine Collins told of the great success of the health talks in the various schools.

LAUDS OPEN AIR SCHOOL.

Mrs. William Spiker, chairman of the mothers and children's literature commit-

tee, told of the advantage of a library in each school.

Mrs. J. Wade Conkling spoke in favor of the open air school and announced that \$1,150 had been raised toward the establishment of such a school in Atlanta.

"We intend to do everything possible to help the children," said Mrs. James R. Little at the conclusion of the meeting, "and to this end we will co-operate in every way to bring the parents and teachers into closer touch with each other."

"We will bend our efforts toward obtaining the pure milk depots for Atlanta and will bring experts here to tell the members of the Mothers' Congress and other mothers who care to attend the best way in which to educate their children."

The Wynnton Parent-Teacher Association of Atlanta has a large and enthusiastic membership.

An association has been formed in the Girard School, Mrs. I. I. Moses, President.

An association has also been formed in the Rose Hill school.

The hygiene section of the Congress reports that during the past two years a number of lectures on various health subjects have been given. Mrs. Katharine R. Collins is chairman.

IDAHO

MOTHERS' ACTIVITY IN LEGISLATION FOR HOME WELFARE.

The Idaho Congress of Mothers has prepared a bill concerning marriage and is working for its passage. It provides that a marriage license must be secured from the County Recorder of the County in which the marriage is to be celebrated. The application for license must be accompanied by a physician's certificate as to health not earlier than 15 days before application. Such certificate must state that applicant is not insane, feeble-minded, epileptic, nor afflicted with any venereal disease or a user of narcotic drugs. When applicants are under legal age consent of parents must be given.

It forbids intermarriage of negroes and whites. It provides for punishment of physicians issuing false certificates—and fixes the maximum fee that may be charged at \$5.00. No license will be issued until 15 days after application is made for same.

When refusal to issue a license is made the recorder must report the reasons and send all papers to District Court. Such application shall then be heard by the District Judge without a jury, who shall have power to reverse the Recorder's decision if he thinks best, and his decision will be final.

Punishment is provided for anyone solemnizing any marriage against state laws.

Permeal French, formerly State Superintendent of Public Instruction, says: "No state can too carefully safeguard her young in the all vital question of marriage. Laws, similar to those proposed by the 'Koelsch Bill' will be the laws of the nation."

The Boise Congress of Mothers held its quarterly meeting in January. Such crowds were in attendance that a larger hall was secured.

Mrs. Lizzie Dickie, president of the City Congress of Mothers, opened the meeting with a brief statement of the object of the congress, and then introduced Superintendent Meek of the city schools, who spoke on the value of the school activities in keeping pupils in the upper grades and in the high school. He outlined the work in agriculture, manual training, architecture and animal husbandry, and showed how students taking these courses were able, within a short time, to turn their knowledge to pecuniary profit. For example, the local implement houses, as soon as the students in the agricultural department become familiar with the working of new farm machinery, are sending these students out to demonstrate this machinery. Spraying and pruning will be done for pay by students as soon as they are competent. Repair work on school property is done by students, who are paid for the same. The architectural department of the school saved the school board \$1500 in building plans, and one of the last year's graduates is bidding on the new Lowell school, he said.

Mr. Meek also explained that more students were taking the purely agricultural work than ever had before, also, the vocational training not interfering with this branch.

SCHOOL NURSE TALKS.

Miss Harcourt, the school nurse, enjoyed a heart to heart talk with the mothers on the subject of explaining the problems of life to young children. The place for this, she said, was at the mother's knee, when it could be told in a way which a child could understand, and if a child were told at this time the rest of the knowledge came easier as it grew older.

The bill requiring a certificate of health before marriage, introduced by Koelsch, of Ada County, house bill No. 44, and the adoption of resolutions commending the action of the city attorney in suppressing gambling in the form of slot machines, playing cards for drinks, cigars or hickies, were two of the live subjects which were discussed.

The recent agitation in favor of enforcing the gambling laws by the city administration was commended by the congress, which unanimously passed the following resolution:

"Whereas, the organized mothers of Boise have for a number of years been urging the enforcement of laws relative to the protection of our boys from the vices named, as playing slot machines, playing cards for drinks, cigars or hickies, knowing them to be vicious in their influence and contrary in every particular to the development of good citizens; be it

Resolved, That we, the Boise Congress of Mothers, and Parent-Teachers' Association, hereby express our hearty appreciation of the action taken by City Attorney Reddoch, wherein he holds the above named vices to be gambling and advises their abolishment in the interest of a better Boise, and that we further pledge him our moral support and co-operation in this action and the enforcement of law against vice in every particular."

HEALTH CERTIFICATE BEFORE MARRIAGE.

Mrs. E. D. Nichols, president of the State Congress of Mothers, reported that the bill providing for a health certificate before a marriage could be performed, had been introduced by Representative Koelsch yesterday morning. This bill was drawn jointly by the Congress of Mothers and Mr. Koelsch, she said, and embodied all the good points of similar bills in other states, with additions which had been found necessary through the workings of these bills. She spoke of the great opposition which had already arisen to the bill, it being claimed, that the women, the ones who were to be protected, would be the first to object to submitting to an examination. Mrs. Nichols said that she felt that no woman would make this objection since it meant protection for herself and her future children. Miss Harcourt, in discussing this phase of the question, said that 90 per cent. of the operations which women had to undergo were not due to any fault of the woman, but to a lack of medical examination of the man whom she was to marry.

The members of the Mothers' circles were urged to do all in their power to create a favorable sentiment for this and the other bill which was suggested by the Mothers' Congress, the bill providing for an unpaid commission to study the question of state aid for needy and worthy mothers, and report to the governor. Mrs. L. A. Garver was made chairman of the lobbying committee.

Aside from the Marriage Bill we are making for a Commission looking to the pensioning of worthy mothers. I urged the Congress to introduce the bill providing for medical examination before marriage two years ago.

Our city organization has just finished a censorship of the picture shows. I am

impressed with the great need of a permanent local censorship and I wish we might as a national organization be instrumental in establishing "Children's Day" at the "movies" with special films adapted to the best development of the growing boy and girl.

ILLINOIS

ILLINOIS CONGRESS OF MOTHERS

Appended is a summary of the resolutions, recommended by the Legislative Committee, of which Mrs. W. H. Buhlig is Chairman, concerning pending legislation, that have been adopted by the Illinois Congress of Mothers. The legislation therein considered is of vital interest and importance to the State of Illinois.

SUMMARY.

The Illinois Congress of Mothers advocates the following:

I. The creation of a Vocational Fund by special taxation, to provide vocational training for youths from 14 to 20 years of age, such training to be under the management of existing school boards, in co-operation with advisory boards.

II. The passage of an effective law requiring the registration of all births and all deaths.

III. Legislation providing for the establishment of a State Colony for Epileptics and for an appropriation adequate to equip and maintain the same.

IV. A statute fixing the legal minimum wage for women at \$5.00 per week.

V. Legislation to increase the funds for the maintenance and extension of the Chicago Public Library System.

The aim of the Country Life Committee of the Illinois Congress of Mothers, is "Community Building through Co-operation."

This committee consists of Mrs. O. J. Kern, Chairman, Rockford, Ill.; Miss Caroline Grote, Macomb, Ill.; Miss Caroline Bowen, Bement, Ill.; Mrs. J. W. Hart, Benton, Ill.

Their plan of work is as follows:

1. Campaign of Publicity.—The committee will endeavor to keep in touch with whatever of value is taking place in country life development and give as wide publicity as possible.

2. Encourage Local Community Surveys.—This must be done through local means to find what conditions actually are. For local study the committee recommends a very valuable syllabus entitled "Community Study for Country Districts" by Anna B. Taft, published by the Missionary Education Movement of the Department of Church and Country Life, New York City. Price 35 cents. This will prove an invaluable guide.

3. Formation of Open Country Clubs.—The committee, as far as possible, will give suggestions for the formation of country life clubs that may make the school house more of a social center for the countryside.

4. Lectures.—The committee has a list of competent men and women who will lecture on country life topics. So far as possible these lecturers will make a minimum of charge for their services. And yet these laborers are worthy of their hire. Local country life communities are urged to include in their entertainment courses one or two lectures along the line of the interests of the open country.

5. Literature of the Open Country.—The committee hopes to have some valuable matter for distribution or be able to direct where such literature may be had. Homes and schools will be encouraged to form Country Life Book-shelves. The following books are recommended:

Bailey—Country Life Movement, MacMillan Co.

Bailey—The State and the Farmer, MacMillan Co.

Bailey—The Training of Farmers, Century Co.

Burbank—The Training of the Human Plant, Century Co.

Plunkett—The Rural Life Problem in the United States, MacMillan Co.

Foght—The American Rural School, MacMillan Co.

Butterfield—Chapters in Rural Progress, Chicago University Press.

Butterfield—The Country Church and the Rural Problem, Chicago University Press.

Wilson—The Church of the Open Country, Missionary Education Movement, New York City.

Carver—Principles of Rural Economics, Ginn & Co.

Country Life Annals, March, 1912, American Academy of Political Science, Philadelphia.

King—Social Aspects of Education, MacMillan.

Forbuse—The Coming Generation, Appleton.

Carney—Country Life and the Country School.

Fiske—The Challenge of the Country.

The Fourth Meeting of the Council of Parent-Teacher Clubs of Chicago and Vicinity was held in Board of Education Rooms, Tribune Building, Tuesday, March 4. Mrs. Orville T. Bright, Chairman, presided, Mrs. A. R. E. Wyant acted as Secretary March meeting. Vocational education was discussed by Dr. Wm. B. Owen, President Chicago Teachers' College. Some responsibilities that rest equally upon home and school were considered

under the following heads: 1. Home Study. (a) How Home-work Should be Assigned—Why it is Necessary—and Under What Conditions it Should be Carried on, Helen B. Eastman, Principal Robert Emmet School. (b) Some Undesirable Phases of Home Study: The Relative Importance of the Study and the Recitation Periods, James E. McDade, Principal Fallon School. 2. Recreations. (a) What Suburban Neighborhoods Can Provide, F. W. Nichols, Superintendent of Schools, Evanston, Ill. (b) The Children of the Flat Dweller: Where Shall They Find Their Recreation? Azile B. Reynolds.

All members of Parent-Teacher Associations or Mothers' Clubs are welcome and School Principals and Superintendents are especially invited. Each Delegate is asked to carry back a full report to her club.

INDIANA

Indiana has been divided into nine districts with the most accessible town as a center. Vincennes is center first district, New Albany second, Greensburg third, Terre Haute fourth, Indianapolis fifth, Huntington sixth, La Fayette seventh, Valparaiso eighth, South Bend ninth.

We are trying to find suitable women for organizers in each district.

The Principal's Club of Indianapolis, composed of teachers and principals of city school, took Parent-Teacher Associations for the subject of their February meeting. Mrs. John Higdon, Vice-president, Indiana branch, National Congress of Mothers, presented the parents' side on the program. The next Child-Welfare Conference will be held at Lafayette early in June.

IOWA

Activities in Iowa are concentrated on the legislature, where a bill has been introduced, asking for an appropriation of seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000) for a women's and children's building at the state fair grounds for 1913. In March the Des Moines Women's Club will hold a household show. One of the most interesting features will be a baby health contest where two children, a boy and girl, will be entered, from each Mothers' and Parent-Teacher Association. The president of the Women's Club, Mrs. W. O. Riddle, is the wife of the City Superintendent of Schools. The slogan for show is "back to the home."

A new mothers' club has been organized at Marquisville. Miss Pearl DeJarnette, County Superintendent, says of this club, "The Mothers' Club is doing splendid work. One of the important things is furnishing a kitchen where the girls are taught domestic science."

The President, Mrs. Chas. Brenton, assisted by Mrs. F. J. Gruver, organized a large club at Sac City. This meeting was held in the evening and well attended by prominent men and women.

Mrs. C. F. Johnston, of Sheffield, the energetic Finance Chairman, is working most earnestly for her department. She is faithfully advancing the cause. She has organized a High School Parent-Teacher Association in Sheffield, of which she is president.

This meeting was called by the Superintendent of schools. Program was, "How Parents Hinder the School Work of their Children," Miss Ingelbrettson. "Why Should We Organize a Parent-Teacher Association?" Mrs. C. F. Johnson. Discussion opened by Superintendent Wahl. The expression of those present was unanimous for an active club.

Iowa agrees with Governor Tener, of Pennsylvania, who says "good roads and good schools go hand in hand." Mrs. A. M. Deyver, wife of State Superintendent of Schools, is an untiring worker for rural improvements. Mrs. Charles Brenton makes each day count for the betterment of the general work in Iowa and her corps of workers are rallying to the cause.

MASSACHUSETTS

Five Parent-Teacher Associations have been organized in South Framingham, three more in Gloucester, one each in Cohasset, Methuen and North Adams.

Hinsdale and Stockbridge are planning to organize. Over twenty new associations have been formed in the last month.

Massachusetts is more enthusiastic than ever in this Child-Welfare Work. New organizations are coming in every week. Our president, Mrs. Higgins, is travelling over the state speaking at the different Parent-Teacher's meetings. Our state organizer, Mrs. Walter Leroy Smith, is very busy forming new clubs. Mrs. S. H. Whitten, of Holyoke, is doing excellent work in the western part of the state. The watchword seems to be "Work" and we all enjoy the work so much.

Mrs. Higgins attended the last board meeting of the National Congress of Mothers in New York. Such a splendid report as she had for us at the last meeting of Massachusetts directors. We feel more fully than ever before that Massachusetts is really a part of the National Congress and ready to help wherever she can.

The Massachusetts directors indorsed the action taken by the National Congress Board in regard to the Mormon hierarchy. One interesting fact that brings us inspiration at our bi-monthly executive meetings

is the presence of Mrs. David O. Mears, First National Vice-president.

Through these columns I wish to thank the Publicity Committee for co-operating in sending the state papers to me. Since the Greenfield Convention I have forwarded over sixteen different Massachusetts papers containing notices of parent-teacher meetings. Please remember to send the entire page of paper. Clippings *cannot* be used.

For Child-Welfare Day, February 17th, the papers of Boston are responding beautifully. Every newspaper has promised to print whatever I send to them.

Mrs. M. P. Higgins has published a pamphlet entitled "The Message of the Flag" (a patriotic exercise for children). Cherry Valley Parent-Teacher Association gave this exercise, and it was a great success. Copies of this exercise may be obtained by applying to Mrs. Higgins, five cents a copy.

The next executive meeting of the Directors and Officers of Massachusetts Congress of Mothers will be held March 7th, at the Women's Industrial Union, Boylston Street, Boston. The special guests of this meeting are the members of the Press and Publicity Committee throughout the state of Massachusetts. Since the National Convention convenes in Massachusetts from May 15 to 20, the work of the Press in the state must be very efficient. The enthusiasm and inspiration for this work can be greatly increased if the Press Committee attend one of the Board Meetings.

Excellent reports are at hand from the Waltham Mothers' Club. They are starting a day nursery. I wish I might report at length the splendid lecture given before the Waltham Club by Rev. J. K. Mason, of Waltham. Subject, "Ideal Motherhood of the Twentieth Century."

Mrs. Robert E. Park, who is working so strenuously for Massachusetts to pass the Widowed Mothers' Pension Bill has completed the report for the Governor and the Bill, called "House Bill 1770," will be called soon. Anyone wishing a typewritten report may write to Mrs. Park, Wollaston, Mass., and it will be sent to them.

MISSISSIPPI

UNION MEETING PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATION

The Union P. T. A. met at Forrest Club, Friday afternoon, Mrs. R. B. Stapleton, the Union president, presiding. The presidents from the several Ward Associations, Mesdames Themes, Jackson, Martin, Fairley and Connor received the guests, about one hundred and fifty.

A turkey dinner was planned to raise money for entertaining the State Teachers' Convention. A Union meeting on the fourth Saturday of each month will be held, each Ward in turn acting as host.

Mr. Claude Bennett, principal of the High School, urged the observance of Arbor Day, February 24th. Fifteen trees had been donated by Mr. Beaumont. A number of ladies pledged themselves to be responsible for three trees to be planted where they chose. A musical program was enjoyed, Mrs. B. D. Moore, Misses Bessie Cook, Ethel Powe and Edith Naylor taking part. Sandwiches and coffee were served by the following group of school girls from the different wards: Misses Evelyn Naylor, Linnie Mabel Rush, Dora Ross, Margaret Herren, Hazel Bishop, Marie Temple, Mary L. McInnis, Frances Rooker, Marjory Fairley and Mary Harris.

Will build and place on school grounds six benches that the children may have somewhere to sit while eating their lunches.

An election of officers proved a compliment to last year's officers as most of them were re-elected: President, Mrs. T. E. Martin, re-elected; vice-president, Miss Boyd McKennie, re-elected; secretary, Mrs. A. S. Carr; treasurer, Mrs. M. Dun, re-elected; assistant secretary, Miss Erskine Thompson; reporter, Mrs. B. T. Moseley.

Mrs. Edna Flood, State Organizer, has organized a parent-teacher association in Brookhaven.

Mrs. G. W. Covington, vice-president, Mississippi Congress, is doing much to promote the work in her part of the State, and was appointed by Mrs. Stapleton to represent her at the National Board meeting in Philadelphia in February.

MISSOURI

The Missouri Board of the Congress has appointed Miss Jennie Hildenbrandt Chairman of Membership, Mrs. Charles McDaris, Chairman Press and Publicity; Mrs. Sturdevant, Mrs. E. R. Weeks, Miss Lulu Collins, were appointed as program committee for annual convention. Mrs. Fanny Lachmund, Mrs. S. R. Miles, and Mrs. Wm. Blodgett were made members of Executive Committee.

April 22d and 23d have been fixed for the first annual convention.

A mass meeting of men and women, citizens of Webster, for the purpose of arousing local interest in the work of the Juvenile Court of St. Louis County, was held in the parlors of the Presbyterian Church, February 5th, under the auspices of the Mothers' Circle of Webster Groves. A large crowd was in attendance.

The chairman, Mrs. C. L. Kloss, briefly outlined the purpose of the meeting and introduced Judge G. A. Wurdaman, presiding officer of the St. Louis County Juvenile Court, as chairman of the meeting.

Judge Wurdaman told of the development of the Juvenile Court in St. Louis County, and how it should be adapted to the needs of the community. Since the average law cannot apply to juveniles, it is necessary that there be provided some means of handling the youthful offender. Each case has to be studied and the law interpreted to do justice to the child as well as the community. The task of the Juvenile Judge is a hard one. The position demands sympathy, and mercy as well as firmness and needs a person peculiarly fitted for the work.

He then introduced Mr. Hugh Fullerton, Probation Officer of St. Louis, who announced as his subject: "The Relation of the Delinquent Boy or Girl to the Local Church." Said he, in part:

"The Juvenile Court is fundamentally for the neglected boy or girl, those who have not the proper home influences around them and who under proper environment would grow up to be useful citizens. The danger period in youth is between 14 and 18 years. This is usually the period when boys and often girls slip away from their Sunday School and home influence. Figures show that after the age of 12 there is a decrease in the figures of Sunday School attendance.

"The Juvenile Court is a bad sign. It shows the need of it in the community and the natural working of such a court should be along the line of trying to get out of a job. In short, to so handle delinquent cases that with the co-operation of the citizens in time there need be no *raison d'être* for its existence. The fact is the real juvenile court should operate on the theory that no child under 17 is bad of itself. Environment, heredity, and lack of will-power are all factors in making the child a delinquent, and Society must reckon with these influences, if it wants the court to perform its functions and possibly in time automatically dispossess itself of a job.

"The Juvenile Court differs from the adult one, in that the idea of the latter is to punish an offender, while the former seeks to correct and guide weak members of society. The victim is not tried on the crime but studied so as to help him get away from the cause. His environment, his home life taken into consideration and all contributory causes leading to his predicament analyzed, so that he can be helped before it is too late.

"Now, the Church can assist in this

work, by providing clubs, or recreation places for the youth of the community. It should have a civics or a social service committee to look after such matters and to study legislation on juvenile matters. The trend in the development of social service now is away from charity. What is needed is social justice. Charity has no place with social justice, and the time is coming when the Church must back up Old Age Pensions, Workman's Compensation Acts, Widows' Pensions and such similar social reforms.

"After all it is an economic problem and it has two important links in the chain. The first, between the boy and the home and the second between the school and his job. How many boys leave school with any idea for what they are fitted? They usually take the first job offered and the world is full of industrial misfits, and these comprise a large proportion of the cases in the Juvenile Court. When boys are looked after along these lines, and get advice and counsel and a right start in their life's work, then will come a stopping of the influx of the 1500 or more cases coming into the juvenile court in St. Louis in a year."

The second speaker was Mr. Roger Baldwin, former probation officer of St. Louis, author of the new Juvenile Court law and secretary of the Civic Club, of St. Louis, who supplemented the remarks of the first speaker, in regard to going after the causes of the trouble rather than the remedy.

Said he, in part: "The Juvenile Court movement cannot be divorced from the development of the child. Poverty is ever a potent cause of crime especially in the child. If not the immediate cause of some overt act, it is a contributory cause through his former training or present environment. A boy can be reached by corrective agencies, but usually the bad boy is the product of an inefficient home, and two-thirds of the cases that come up are from part homes, that is either one or both parents are missing.

"The question of the organization of work for children is the hardest problem of the National Probation Society. The Juvenile Court idea offers nothing new. It is only a central agency, guided by a high minded man to take charge of the case of the deficient child. The essence of the movement is that you can love children into good but you can't lick them into it and the law gives the right to take charge of a child and give it care despite the parent's protests.

"The county problem of course differs slightly, with towns wide separated from the county seat where the cases must be tried but efficient truant officers can handle

the problem better than the average constable or sheriff, and volunteer probation officers recruited from the teachers can be made to serve in conjunction with the regular probation officers, in each community. But, back of all the law and officials must be an intelligent body of citizens, clubs and mothers' circles working to help the court, not only to fulfil its admonitory function, but to prevent the causes for its existence, one of the most potent being the broken family and the resultant demoralization of the child."

A. V. Lashly, prosecuting attorney of St. Louis County, also made a short address pledging his support personally and officially in developing the work of the court, and the juvenile work in the county as outlined by the Mother's Club and similar organizations.

MONTANA

The Missoula Parents' Association is growing. We are working for a Mothers' Pension Bill. The press is with us helping educate public opinion. We have presented the subject to every organization in the city, and are to hold a mass meeting, when Mrs. Weed, of Lewistown, and local speakers will address the audience. We hope to see all of Montana banded together in the Congress. With its aims and purposes ever before us, we should win.

NEW YORK

A meeting of the Executive Board of the Mothers' Assembly of the State of New York was held in Albany, January 30-31. It was decided to employ a paid organizer in April to organize clubs or Parent-Teacher Associations. Calls have come for assistance in organizing from many towns in the central part of the State.

The Chairman of Extension reported that Mr. Waterbury, of Saratoga Springs, had donated to the Mothers' Club a plot of ground for a playground. The Mothers' Club of Saratoga Springs not being an incorporated body, could not improve the ground, but working through the Woman's Association they had been enabled to equip the playground.

An excellent paper with practical value on "The Duties of a Delegate," written by Mrs. Thomas B. Carpenter, of Buffalo, was read and approved. The Recording Secretary was authorized to have this paper printed and a copy sent to each affiliated club in the State.

The Programme Committee for the Assembly, to be held at Auburn, October, 1913, was appointed as follows: Mrs. Charles S. Hoyt, Auburn, Chairman; Mrs. E. H. Merrell, Syracuse; Mrs. David

Perry, Ithaca; Mrs. Charles Hughett, Auburn.

One member at large appointed by the Chairman.

A special committee on membership was formed with Mrs. E. C. Metcalf, of West Moreland, as Chairman.

OREGON

A meeting of the State Executive Committee and Advisory Council was held in January for the purpose of discussing plans to enlarge the scope of the work. Luncheon was served in the private dining-room of the Young Women's Christian Association, with 18 present. Mrs. A. King Wilson, Second Vice-President, presided. Mrs. W. W. Williams, who had supervised the Child-Welfare and Eugenics Exhibit at the State Fair last fall, had for some time contemplated a permanent educational exhibit for parents. Her plans were submitted at this meeting. Addresses were made by Rev. Benjamin Young, D.D., Dr. A. S. Nichols, Rev. H. J. McDevitt, Mr. Samuel Connell and Dr. Mae H. Cardwell. After an enthusiastic discussion in favor of a Parents' Educational Bureau, the following resolutions were read and adopted:

Whereas, The Congress of Mothers has given to the people of Oregon two Child-Welfare Exhibits—one in Portland, November, 1911,—the other in Salem, September, 1912, and

Whereas, Both of these exhibits were patronized by thousands of parents—not mere curiosity seekers, but fathers and mothers who were looking for helps where-with they might train their children to the fullest development mentally, morally and physically, and

Whereas, Though the Salem exhibit was comparatively a small one, the demand for literature and demonstration regarding childhood was even greater than it had been the previous year, and,

Whereas, Education has been offered along all lines for ages past except the education of parents for the betterment of homes and the uplift of child-life.

Therefore, Be It Resolved, That the Oregon Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Association establish a Parents' Educational Bureau in Portland, and

Be it Further Resolved, That this Bureau contain literature bearing upon all phases of childhood, a Maternal Educational Section, and Eugenic Section, where lectures and demonstration may be given that will enlighten parents, help them to see their responsibility and the importance of giving to the State a better race of boys and girls, and

Be It Further Resolved, That the Governor of the State or Oregon, the Mayor and Council of the City of Portland, also

the Boards of Health, the Boards of Education and the Social Hygiene Society be urged to co-operate with the Oregon Congress of Mothers in establishing such a Bureau as will tend to conserve for the State its highest asset, the child.

The Bureau will in all probability be established in the City Hall. At this writing great interest is being manifested and a campaign to raise funds has begun.

This Bureau will be open to all interested in Child Welfare, and a more specific outline of it will be given in the next issue.

Mrs. Julia C. LaBarre, a faithful congress worker, is sojourning in California. On her way south she addressed the Parent-Teacher Circles at Medford and Ashland, and was splendidly entertained in both cities. Mrs. H. L. Walter, our Corresponding Secretary, addressed the Parent-Teacher Circle at Grant's Pass. A new circle at Jennings' Lodge was recently organized by Mrs. C. F. Clarke. The State Membership Department is busy obtaining many new members. Mrs. E. H. Ingham, the Chairman, with a corps of workers, is in the midst of campaign for Child Welfare. Mrs. G. E. Christmas, Chairman of the Magazine Department, is a "live wire" as a solicitor, and Mrs. Thomas G. Greene, with her workers or the Ways and Means Committee, is stirring people into action by enlisting fifty women to assist her in raising funds.

PENNSYLVANIA

The First Child-Welfare Conference of Pennsylvania met in the Pine Street Presbyterian Church at Harrisburg, February 4, 5 and 6. The meeting was largely attended. Right Rev. Henry Darlington, of Harrisburg, Rev. Dr. E. A. Noble, president of Dickinson College, Mr. James S. Heberling, superintendent of the Carter Junior Republic, E. Z. Smith, Esq., of Pittsburg, Hon. John C. Bell and Mrs. Frederic Schoff, president of the National Congress of Mothers, Mayor Ward, of Chester, Henry J. Gideon, chief of the Bureau of Compulsory Education, at Philadelphia, and Mrs. Jennie A. Griffith and Mrs. Edward W. Biddle were among the speakers.

TEXAS

The January meeting of the San Antonio Council of Mothers was devoted to the consideration of legislative measures looking to the conservation of the home and the welfare of the children. The bill to be presented to the legislature, now in session, providing for State regulation of marriage, was read and endorsed by the following resolutions:

Whereas, The San Antonio Council of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Association recognizes that insanity, feeble-mindedness

and the transmission of certain specific diseases can be controlled through proper State regulation of marriage, therefore be it

Resolved, That we unequivocally endorse the movement inaugurated by the Texas State Society of Social Hygiene to protect childhood and the family from physical, mental and moral deterioration through legislative prevention of marriage of the unfit;

Resolved, That we pledge our active support to the measure framed by the Texas State Society of Social Hygiene for the regulation of marriage, which is to be introduced at the present session of the legislature.

A Bill making Family Desertion and Non-support of Family a penal offense was also read, discussed at length and heartily endorsed.

Co-operation of the most active kind was pledged to a bill providing for the establishment of a Child-Welfare Commission in Texas. This measure will be introduced by the State Congress of Mothers.

The operation of the "Widows' Pension" act in Cook County, Illinois, was presented in detail and members were urged to send for the bulletin on Public Aid to Needy Mothers just issued by the Russell Sage Foundation. The last topic discussed was that of Joint Guardianship.

The Christmas sale of Red Cross seals conducted by the Mothers' Clubs of San Antonio was reported as having amounted to slightly more than ninety dollars.

The Outlook Committee was instructed to make inquiry whether the books of the local Carnegie library were regularly fumigated.

The Cigarette Committee reported co-operation with the like named committee of the W. C. T. U.

Delegates were elected to the Social-Welfare Conference called by Governor Colquitt for January 28 and 29 in the capital city of Austin.

San Antonio's Child-Welfare Conference under auspices of the San Antonio Council of Mothers.

Invocation, Rev. D. Emory Hawk.

Introductory remarks, Mrs. Malone Duggan, president S. A. C. M.

Protective Work of the Board of Health, Dr. W. B. Russ.

Playgrounds, Mr. H. L. Beach.

What the Public Schools are Doing for the Physical Welfare of Our School Children, Mr. F. M. Dechman.

Preventive Work of the San Antonio Humane Society, President James Anderson.

Two-minute reports of child-welfare work were given by the following organizations: San Antonio Kindergarten Association, Associated Charities, Young Women's Christian Association, Women's Christian Temperance Union, Women's City Board of Missions, Woman's Club.

The evening was enlivened by choruses by school children and by the Teachers' Choral Club under the direction of the musical supervisor, Mrs. Lula Griesenbeck.

VERMONT

The Parent-Teacher Associations of Rutland and West Rutland invited the pupils of the public school to attend an illustrated lecture in the High School Assembly Hall, February 11, afternoon and evening. Eight hundred pupils attended each entertainment. The school sang national songs, led by our teacher of music, and a pupil of the ninth grade gave the poem, "Condemned to be Shot." The subject of the lecture was the Life and Character of Abraham Lincoln, by J. Wilder Fairbank, of Boston.

The Abraham Lincoln School had a Lincoln day February 12. A letter was read, sent by the son of Lincoln (Robert T. Lincoln). A bust of Lincoln has been placed on a marble pedestal in the entrance hall and framed copies of the Rutland *Herald*, issued the day after Lincoln's assassination, are hung in the same hall, so low that all the children can read. Mrs. Willis Ross is the president.

WASHINGTON

The Washington branch National Congress of Mothers is working for a Mothers' Pension law and one to punish delinquent parents. Also for additional protection of children from overwork.

Warm appreciation of the valuable work done by Mrs. C. E. Beach, of Olympia, who acted as president for the year while Mrs. Hubbel was away.

Tacoma has twenty-eight mothers' and parents' associations. Seattle follows with nineteen, Olympia eleven, Spokane ten, Auburn seven, Puyallup five, Hillyard one. All of these are members of the Congress.

Preparations are under way for the annual convention which this year will be held in Spokane in May.